

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society),
8B, Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London W.1.

VOL. XLIII. No. 4.

15th APRIL, 1957.

Price Sixpence.

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

Forty-Sixth Annual Meeting

The Forty-Sixth Annual Meeting was held on March 16th, 1957, at 27 Wilfred Street, S.W.1. under the chairmanship of Mrs. Shattock, M.D., D.P.M. The hon. secretary read the apologies for absence and a greetings telegram was received from the Merseyside Branch. The Annual Report was read by Miss Brandt. The editor, Miss Christine Spender, presenting *The Catholic Citizen* report, mentioned that the paper is sent to many parts of the world and asked members to offer subscriptions for copies of the paper to be sent to missionaries and libraries. She pointed out the value of advertisements as a source of income and urged members to use the advertisement columns to make known their wants.

Miss Green, past president of the National Union of Women Teachers, moved the adoption of the report and offered warm greetings from the N.U.W.T. She said how impressed she was by the Report which proved that, although St. Joan's is beset with difficulties, particularly financial, the Alliance continues to achieve great things. She was pleased to note that St. Joan's is pressing for equal rights for men and women in the proposed reform in the composition of the House of Lords and also that the Alliance is eternally vigilant on the vexatious question of equal pay and its implementation. St. Joan's co-operation with other societies is of great value and particularly its work with the United Nations. Miss Green was struck by the generosity of members, not only financially speaking, but—what is even more valuable—in the giving of time and energy. She ended by thanking all those who helped to produce the Report.

Dr. Marita Shattock Harper in seconding the adoption of the Report stressed the vital need for boys and girls to have equal opportunities in education. This was far from being the case and yet we are constantly told that scientists and technicians are needed in ever increasing numbers. Coupled with equal opportunity is the need for equal pay and equal chance of advancement

for both sexes. Dr. Harper pointed out how unfair is the present method of assessing taxation for married persons and she showed how very dangerous this is in creating a situation in which, as it is a better economic proposition for a woman not to marry (if she is earning), the temptation to enter an illicit union is very great. Another absurd anomaly with regard to taxation, said Dr. Harper, is the case of a woman who is unable to claim an allowance for a housekeeper, whereas a man may do so. The example of Germany might well be followed where one in every five big industrial concerns has a woman at its head. Dr. Harper ended by expressing the hope that all St. Joan's stands for will be achieved.

Miss N. K. Carr, the hon. treasurer, then read the financial report and made an appeal for funds to help to pay the greatly increased rent of the new office. It is a constant source of delight to members that Miss Carr manages each year to make her appeal an original one. Members were asked this year, to imagine that Miss Carr was the "commercial" on I.T.V. and that she was selling us St. Joan's which, as she said, is a feminist organisation that never gives up and that always does what it says it will do. She asked members to be generous and to look upon their donations as a *purchase tax* on their subscriptions. Councillor Miss Hulme moved the adoption of the financial report which was seconded by Mrs. Halpern and carried.

The meeting then heard with interest Dame Vera Laughton Mathews give her account of some of the international work done by St. Joan's. It was a great sorrow to record the deaths of two outstanding members of the Alliance—Maria Herminia Lisboa, of Brazil, who had founded St. Joan's in her own country twenty-one years ago and had worked, very often alone, and most devotedly, for the causes she upheld, and Marie José Russo, the very able and energetic young president of the French Section. Dame Vera recalled the happy occasion of the celebrations in

Rouen last June for the five hundredth anniversary of the Rehabilitation of St. Joan, and said what lovely memories would be retained by all those who were privileged to take part in these festivities. The need for an active society to take its part in international work, especially to improve the status of women in under-developed countries, was stressed by Dame Vera. Gratitude was due to all members who represent the Alliance at meetings and Dame Vera particularly mentioned Madame Grabinska and her work for the Alliance at the United Nations in New York, and Miss Challoner who did such a splendid job at Geneva on the Slavery Convention last year. At this point in the proceedings the chairman asked members to say a prayer for our deceased members.

Miss Retchford, Assistant Secretary of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations, a body co-ordinating twelve International Organisations, delighted all members present by saying that St. Joan's, although it has a smaller membership than most of the other Associations, was the spearhead, and that much work is done at the instigation of the Alliance. Miss Retchford said how much she admires the work done by St. Joan's and feels that it is a fighting organisation.

The chairman then announced that the amount collected or promised during the Meeting, was £42 0s. 6d. She thanked all the members for their generosity, and all the speakers for the very kind things they had said about St. Joan's.

Dr. Shattock in her address from the Chair, said how much encouraged we should be by the Report, but that, far from resting on our laurels, we should gather strength for the work ahead. Reference was again made to the English contribution to the celebrations at Rouen which, although organised on a national scale, had, to a large extent, been the work of the Alliance, as also was the granting of the request to allow the Mass of St. Joan to be said in England and Wales on her feast. The chairman felt that the usefulness of the Alliance could be summed up by looking at three of its aspects. Firstly, that it is our privilege to bring to other organisations with which we collaborate, judgments based on ultimately immutable values. We are respected for our intransigence on principle, but a sense of proportion and a sense of humour should help us to be good mixers. Secondly, although small in numbers, St. Joan's does insist on bringing help to those who, unaided, would otherwise be forced into frustrated acceptance of their lot. Thirdly, by publicising our aims, we refute the statement so often made (perhaps sometimes with justification), that Catholics do not play their full part in public life.

In conclusion, Dr. Shattock said that the work of St. Joan's is not always chosen by it, but is

thrust upon it by unwillingness to turn down a request. Mention was made of an enclosed nun who drew the attention of the Alliance to the wording of one of the Collects in which occurs the phrase "... has granted even to the weaker sex, the triumph of martyrdom." (*etiam in sexu fragili victoriam martyrii contulisti*). Similar points need to be mentioned and brought to light.

Thanks were then offered to the Fawcett Society for their kind hospitality.

The members of the Executive were re-elected *en bloc*.

Resolutions were moved from the Chair and passed, and will be found on the next page. Members were glad to welcome Miss Chave Collisson, Secretary of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene who, from her expert knowledge, spoke on Resolution 4.

A delicious tea, arranged by Miss Carr and her helpers, was enjoyed by all present, and brought to an end a very happy and profitable meeting.

Marguerite Guessard

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From "The Catholic Citizen"
15th April, 1932

A letter was read from our late Chairman, Miss Douglas Irvine, who is on her way to Chile. After expressing her regret at not being able to attend the meeting, except in spirit, Miss Douglas recalls the fine achievement of the year, and continues: I wish St. Joan's a continuance of its present vigorous usefulness. May it always be, as it has ever been, keen, courageous, disinterested, generous! May it preserve that sense of humour which societies can lack as woefully as individuals, and may it ever shun vain glory!—*Report of Twenty-first Annual Meeting.*

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Notes and Comments

A further step in the gradual process of implementing equal pay will be taken by the Post Office on May 31st. Staff recruited for the telephone and telegraph grades after that date will, on attaining the age of twenty-one years, be placed on a scale of pay that will ultimately be equal to that in force for men. This will be conditional on their willingness to be in attendance throughout the twenty-four hours of every day, including Sunday. Existing staff may choose to join the new scheme or to continue in the present conditions of service with their existing scales, which will have a new maximum of 95 per cent. of the men's.

The principle of equal pay for equal work involves equal conditions of work—our quarrel is with those who refuse to allow women to qualify for work involving equal conditions—and therefore equal pay.

* * *

The fourteenth Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance will be held in Paris the week-end of September 14th. Further particulars will be given in a future issue. It is open to any member of the Alliance to attend as a visitor and those wishing to do so should send in their names to the hon. secretary of St. Joan's International Alliance, 8B, Dryden Chambers, 119, Oxford Street, London W.1.

* * *

Mrs. Vaile, a member of the executive committee of St. Joan's in New South Wales, has recently been a welcome visitor at the office.

* * *

Congratulations to Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart, M.D. of St. Joseph's Convent, Guntur, India, on having been unanimously elected president of the Catholic Hospitals Association, India.

Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart (Dr. Mary Glowery) left Australia thirty-eight years ago to devote her services to the sick in India. *Ad multos annos.*

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

My grateful thanks to all those who so generously responded to the appeal at the Annual Meeting. The result to date is £42 0s. 6d. Perhaps those who were not able to be present would like to associate themselves with the appeal and send a donation now. It was suggested that the £1 subscription should be regarded as a "purchase price" and that each person should give what was, in her estimation, a fair "purchase tax." Thank you if you have already given and please send if you were not at the meeting.

Noreen K. Carr

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 46th ANNUAL MEETING—MARCH 16th, 1957

1. Equal Political Rights

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance demands that peeresses in their own right shall have a seat and vote in the House of Lords. The Alliance notes that the reform of the composition of the House of Lords was included in the Queen's Speech. It demands that in any measure of reform, men and women shall be equally eligible for membership of the Second Chamber.

2. Maintenance Orders

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance welcomes the Maintenance Orders (Attachment of Income) Bill and urges its speedy passage unto law.

3. Equal Pay.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Government to establish equal pay throughout the Government Services without delay. It deplores the postponement of Equal Pay until 1961 and the exclusion of women in the Industrial Grades of the Civil Service from the existing scheme.

4. Prostitution.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls for the repeal of the present unjust Solicitation Laws and the substitution of a measure dealing 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.

The Alliance further calls upon the Government to strengthen the law against procurement, brothel-keeping and any form of gain or profit by third party exploitation of the prostitute.

5. Domicil

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Government to introduce and pass legislation to entitle a married woman to acquire a domicil of her own in the same way as a man or single woman.

6. Taxation

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls for the separate taxation of married persons and the removal of all sex discrimination in taxation.

7. Nationality of Married Women

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance expresses its satisfaction that the United Kingdom has signed the United Nations Convention on the nationality of married women which gives a married woman the right to her own independent nationality. It regrets the discrimination between the spouses in facilities for acquiring naturalisation.

8. I.L.O.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance believes that the only policy which safeguards the individual liberty and responsibility of the woman worker 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 I.L.O.

9. Education

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance reiterates its demands for full financial equality for Catholic Schools in the national scheme for education. It further urges that in all schemes of education equal opportunity be made available for boys and girls, both in this country and in all territories under British administration.

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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Nationality of Married Women

The Nationality of Married Women Convention was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on January 29th, 1957, by forty-eight votes to two with twenty-three abstentions. The Convention lays down that: "Each Contracting State agrees that:—

Article 1

"neither the celebration nor the dissolution of a marriage between one of its nationals and an alien, nor the change of nationality by the husband during marriage, shall automatically affect the nationality of the wife"

Article 2

"neither the voluntary acquisition of the nationality of another State nor the renunciation of its nationality by one of its nationals shall prevent the retention of its nationality by the wife of such national"

Article 3

1. "the alien wife of one of its nationals may, at her request, acquire the nationality of her husband through specially privileged naturalization procedures; the grant of such nationality may be subject to such limitations as may be imposed in the interests of national security or public policy."
2. "the present Convention shall not be construed as affecting any legislation or judicial practice by which the alien wife of one of its nationals may, at her request, acquire her husband's nationality as a matter of right."

The Convention is the result of more than eight years' hard and persistent work on the part of the Status of Women Commission which, indeed, had the subject on its programme as early as 1947.

The substantive clauses of the Convention are similar to the clauses of the British Nationality Act, 1948, which deal with the nationality of married women. This Act brought victory to British women after a campaign lasting thirty-four years.

Article 3 of the Convention unfortunately contains a similar discrimination to that in the British Nationality Act, in that the alien wife may acquire naturalization on easier terms than the alien husband—a discrimination against

which the women's organizations in this country protested. This Article caused the greatest controversy in the Third Committee of the General Assembly during the discussion on the substantive Articles of the Convention.

On the legal side, the most discussed question was that of the territorial application clause. It was on the initiative of the United Kingdom delegation that this difficulty was finally overcome. In a forthright speech, Mrs. Walter Elliot introduced a territorial Article—Article 7—which is a replica of that adopted for the Supplementary Convention on Slavery. This Article proposed by the United Kingdom delegation was adopted by thirty-one votes to twenty-six, with sixteen abstentions. It reads:

Article 7

1. "The present Convention shall apply to all non-self-governing, trust, colonial and other non-metropolitan territories for the international relations of which any contracting State is responsible; the Contracting State concerned shall, subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of the present article, at the time of signature, ratification or accession declare the non-metropolitan territory or territories to which the Convention shall apply *ipso facto* as a result of such signature, ratification or accession."
2. "In any case in which, for the purpose of nationality, a non-metropolitan territory is not treated as one with the metropolitan territory, or in any case in which the previous consent of a non-metropolitan territory is required by the constitutional laws or practices of the Contracting State or of the non-metropolitan territory for the application of the Convention to that territory, that Contracting State shall endeavour to secure the needed consent of the non-metropolitan territory within the period of twelve months from the date of signature of the Convention by that Contracting State, and when such consent has been obtained the Contracting State shall notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The present Convention shall apply to the territory or territories named in such notification from the date of its receipt by the Secretary-General."
3. "After the expiry of the twelve-month period mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present article, the Contracting States concerned shall inform the Secretary-

General of the results of the consultations with those non-metropolitan territories for whose international relations they are responsible and whose consent to the application of the present Convention may have been withheld."

The Convention was signed by the United Kingdom as soon as it was open for signature, on February 20th, 1957. In Parliament, on March 25th, in reply to a question by Mrs. Emmet as to the extent to which the Convention applies to overseas territories, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs stated that this territorial clause "enabled us to sign the Convention and the necessary consultations will now follow." He continued: "I should like to take this opportunity of saying how grateful we are to Mrs. Walter Elliot for the part she played as a United Kingdom delegate."

It is good that a way has been found by which the United Kingdom is enabled to sign international Conventions. The difficulty hitherto has always lain in the territorial clause and is a very real one. The United Kingdom has consistently refused to commit all its non-metropolitan territories *en bloc*, without their authorization, to any Convention it may sign.

We offer our congratulations to the Status of Women Commission on the adoption of the Convention.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Ethiopia. In a letter to the *International Women's News*, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst reports that Ethiopian women have not only been given the vote but are eligible for election to the Ethiopian Parliament, and it is hoped that there will be many women candidates at the General Election under the new Constitution to be held in November, 1957.

So far no political parties have emerged and the electors will vote for the candidates whom they feel best qualified to represent them. For the benefit of voters unable to read, photographs of the candidates are to be attached to the ballot boxes.

Efforts are now being made to inform the people that they are voters and to urge them to register themselves in time for the election in November.

Germany. Congratulations to Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes on her re-election to the Executive Board of UNESCO, the only woman on the Board. Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes is a vice-president of St. Joan's International Alliance.

Haiti. The law enacted on January 25th, 1957 gives full political rights to women over the age of twenty-one years and entitles them to vote in the forthcoming national elections. This law also provides that a married woman does not need the authorization of her husband in order to exercise these rights.

Holland. In the present Parliament there are seventeen women members, four in the First Chamber, out of a total of seventy-five; and thirteen in the Second Chamber out of a total of one hundred and fifty.

On January 1st last, the new civil law came into force whereby Dutch married women may now enter into legal contracts on their own account. Formerly, married women required the signature of their husbands in legal transactions. They may now open their own bank accounts, conclude agreements and begin legal transactions without their husbands' consent.

* * *

Ireland. Ten women stood as candidates in the recent Dail Eireann elections, of whom five were elected. Mrs. H. M. Crowley, Mrs. Celia Lynch, Mrs. M. B. Ryan (Fianna Fail) and Mrs. M. Reynolds (Fine Gael), members of the old Dail, were re-elected, and one new member, Miss Brigit Hogan, aged twenty-four (Fine Gael).

We especially regret that Mrs. Beatrice Dixon (Independent), a member of St. Joan's Alliance, was defeated. Under the system of Proportional Representation she was only eliminated on the ninth count (total counts eleven). Mrs. Dixon was president of the Irish Housewives Association, 1954-1955. We wish her better luck next time.

* * *

New South Wales. Mrs. Whitton Flynn, president of St. Joan's Alliance, New South Wales, writes that during the Christmas recess the office of the Alliance was lent to the Hungarian Relief Committee for use as headquarters. This was much appreciated and members contributed generously to the Relief Fund.

At the first general meeting for 1957, Mrs. Lillian Mitchell, member of the executive committee, spoke about her experiences as Australian delegate to the International Commissioners' meeting of Girl Guides, held at New Delhi, during October and November, 1956. She also attended, as visitor, the Ninth International Session of UNESCO, held at New Delhi in November and December, 1956.

* * *

Switzerland. Arising out of the proposed imposition of new civil duties on Swiss women and the women's opposition to this while they have no vote, Monsieur Feldman, Chief of the Department of Justice and Police, has decided that he will put forward a scheme for giving women the federal vote—whereby they could elect members to the Federal Council and take part in the referenda and initiatives on reforms of the constitution.

* * *

With Christ to Calvary. Lenten Meditations. By David L. Greenstock. (Burns Oates 7s. 6d.)
Our Lord. An Outline Life of Christ. By Gerard Lake, S.J. (Burns Oates 5s.)

THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

Among the topics discussed in March were Supply (Army, Navy and Air Force), London Housing, Government Social Policy and the controversial Rent Bill, which passed its third reading on March 27th.

So far as we are concerned, the most interesting day was March 1st, when two Private Members' Bills, Miss Vickers' Maintenance Orders (Attachment of Income) Bill and Mr. Gibson-Watts' Legitimation (Re-registration of births) Bill were committed to a Standing Committee.

Miss Vickers' Bill was warmly recommended by the Government in the person of Mr. J. E. S. Simon, Joint Under-Secretary of State. He said: "If the House accepts the principle of attachment, the Government will welcome its beneficial result in the general interest, and the Government's view is that the detailed provisions of the Bill represent, on the whole, a scheme that is most suitable and reasonable in all the circumstances."

By this Bill salaries as well as wages will be attachable if four weeks arrears of a Maintenance Order have accumulated. Some members complained of the undesirable publicity this might cause the man. Others however pointed out the woman's position. This was best described by Mrs. Jeger. "If we are conscious, as we must be, of the invasion of privacy in this matter, let us for a moment consider also the invasion of privacy for the woman. What of her privacy when she is left with no money to pay the rent? She has to tell the landlady something. She has to go to the National Assistance Board and tell the whole story. She has eventually to go to the Court. . . the court in itself is a terrible ordeal for many respectable women, often shy, sometimes elderly, and not used to dealing with this sort of matter at all." Mrs. Jeger also pointed out another fact. "It is the intention of the sponsors of the Bill that it should apply equally to men and women, for it is not only men who have orders made against them." Mr. Simon referred to another unsatisfactory aspect of the present state of affairs, namely that imprisonment, which extinguishes the debt and therefore does not benefit the woman, is the only possible penalty. He said: "Our prisons are already overfull. Last month no fewer than 2,052 prisoners were sleeping three to a cell which was built to accommodate one only. Yet, since this is the only real sanction for the order of the court, about 5,000 men are sent to prison each year for wilful default of maintenance orders. These men, most of them without any previous convictions, are necessarily exposed to the risk of contamination in prison." Miss Vickers is to be congratulated for bringing forward so important a point. As

Mrs. Eirene White said: "I am glad the hon. Lady . . . has used her opportunity for something constructive which affects so many people."

Mr. Gibson-Watt's Bill, while not of so great general interest also illustrates the usefulness of the Private Member's Bill. With the full support of the Government it proposes to clear up a small anomaly in the Legitimacy Act of 1926, legitimating persons whose parents subsequently marry. As Mr. Vaughan-Morgan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health said: "When I first saw what this Bill involved I must say that I realised that as the law at present stands it looks like a sort of barrister's beanfeast, because it seems to be one of those appalling cases where rather tidy-minded law-makers have left all the worst kind of loopholes, which needs an amateur to come along and tidy them up."

Incidentally, the hardships which this Bill is designed to remove, and which are too complicated to explain here, are another result of the very involved laws of Domicile, of which we have had occasion to complain on other grounds.

On March 13th Mr. A. Roberts asked the Colonial Secretary: "What steps he proposes to take to make concubinage in Hong Kong illegal." Mr. Profumo replied: "Modern ideas are gradually doing away with concubinage and I think that may prove to be the best way to deal with it." Without commenting on Mr. Profumo's main point I cannot help being pleased with the notion that objections to concubinage are "modern ideas."

On March 11th Mr. Llewellyn raised another point of interest. He asked the Foreign Secretary: "Why a husband but not a wife may travel on a joint passport; and whether he will take steps to remedy this anomaly." Mr. Ormsby-Gore replied: "The passport is issued to the husband and if he is accompanied by his wife and children their particulars are included in his passport as a matter of convenience. At international conferences on passport and frontier formalities it has been agreed that: 'The head of the family may travel alone with a joint or family passport, but it cannot be used by his wife and children travelling without him. It is understood that widows should be regarded as heads of families! As the matter is one on which international agreement has already been reached my right hon. and learned Friend does not feel able to reopen it.'" This agreement (the date of which has not been stated) appears to have been based on theories and practices current in more backward nations than ours, which would seem to me to indicate a flaw in drawing up the agreement rather than a reason for prolonging it.

B. M. Halpern

REVIEWS

The English Woman in History. By Doris Mary Stenton. (Allen and Unwin 35s.)

The story begins with the Anglo-Saxon woman, about whom the author gives many details taken from contemporary wills and charters and it is Lady Stenton's contention that the large measure of equality which she undoubtedly enjoyed was an inheritance from Germanic tribes. While this is true in some measure, the Christian religion was a very important factor in creating the age of chivalry, which had for its object the rescue of the oppressed from oppression and the asserting of the dignity of woman. Lady Stenton discounts this and asserts that the mediaeval Church, the Norman Conquest, and what she describes as the infiltration of the Pauline view of women's place, led to the subjection of women generally.

Thanks to the enormous amount of recent research, however, there is a wealth of contemporary documents available for study and it is clear from these that women on Abbey Manors occupied a very favourable position under the feudal system. They held land in their own right and could leave it to whom they pleased.

The educational and social work carried out by monks and nuns in pre-Reformation days was of immense importance, and the breakdown of the monastic system was followed by much distress. There is no mention of this in the book under review.

With Lady Stenton's views on the marriage laws of the Church and Her upholding of the ideal of virginity, we must be in fundamental disagreement. It is hard to believe that the easier divorce laws of which the author approves, have led to an improvement either in the happiness or security of women.

The preparation of this book has certainly entailed an enormous amount of reading and details are given of many scholarly women in later centuries such as Elizabeth Elstob, Elizabeth Carter, Mary Astell, Hannah More and Catherine Macauley, but I should have liked more information about women in the religious houses of the seventh century and of the women of the sixteenth century such as Margaret Roper and the other daughters of St. Thomas More.

We are told the sad story of Mary Wollstonecraft and the book ends rather abruptly with the disappointing views of Florence Nightingale on feminism.

The Epilogue mentions many names which are dear and familiar to us such as Madame Bodichon, Emily Davies, Bessie Parkes and a tribute is paid to John Stuart Mill, but the author considers that they do not come within the scope of the book.

Monica O'Connor

Lord Dickinson of Painswick. A Memoir by Hope Astley. Preface by Dr. Gilbert Murray. (John Bellows, Gloucester.)

This short memoir of Lord Dickinson who died in 1943 leaves the reader with the impression of an earnest and disinterested politician and a lovable personality. Nearly half the book consists of extracts from his diary from 1888-1941 and shows him to have been a deeply religious man and devoted to his family.

The causes for which he most cared were Woman Suffrage and the League of Nations and later, the World Council of Churches.

It was in 1906 that Mr. Dickinson, while Liberal Member of Parliament, called a meeting of Members of Parliament to discuss woman's suffrage. He moved the Women's Enfranchisement Bill in 1907 but the Bill was talked out. He was disappointed but not disheartened, for as he wrote in his diary, "I know we have a cause that is in harmony with the Divine order of progress." Another cause that he had at heart was the Nationality of Married Women. He moved an amendment to the British Nationality Bill in July 1914 to allow an English woman marrying an alien to retain her nationality, but this was defeated.

St. Joan's Alliance has a happy recollection of Sir Willoughby Dickinson coming to our office in Berners Street to attend a Committee Meeting of the Nationality of Married Women Pass the Bill Committee.

He took great interest in the careers of his daughters. One became a member of the Buckinghamshire County Council and a magistrate, and the other, Lady Davidson, is a Member of Parliament, having been first elected in 1937, an event which was a cause of great pride to her father.

P. M. B.

Cronache, organ of *Centro Italiano Feminile*, reports that the Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance held a study conference recently in the French Cameroons, which was attended by the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop of Yaounde, several Bishops, numerous missionaries and representatives from more than thirty African territories. The Apostolic Delegate for the Cameroons, H. E. Monsignor Lefevre, conveyed the interest of the Holy Father in the spiritual and moral welfare of the children of the new countries of the African Continent. Soeur Marie-André, of the White Sisters, was president of one of the three commissions into which the studies of the Conference were divided, that on child education and the education of adult African women.

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