

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, 55, Berners Street, London, W.I.

VOL. V., No. 3.

March 15th, 1919.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give;
Who knows the gifts that *you* shall give,
Daughter of the newer Eve?

—Francis Thompson.

POLICEWOMEN.

BY IVEIGH MORE NISBETT.

The policewoman is not a mushroom product of the war. She has come to stay, and the war has done nothing more for her than to hasten her coming. It is to the suffragettes that she owes her birth, for it was only by the imprisonment of educated women that certain prison abuses were brought to light. For years it never seemed to dawn on women that their unfortunate criminal sisters had anything to complain of in the courts or cells of justice; then the "militants" were sent to prison and the eyes of civilized women were opened.

There are two kinds of law in England, Statute Law and Criminal Law. Statute Laws are those which are the outcome of civilization, such as the Insurance, Education, Shop and Factory Acts, etc.; Criminal Laws are those which are made to protect the rights of person and property. At the present day increasing numbers of women are used to administer statute laws. There are women shop and factory inspectors; women child welfare and maternity inspectors; women school board inspectors, women sanitary inspectors and so on. But Criminal Law, which is by far the most important, is administered to men, women and children *by men only*.

Supposing a girl commits a crime, she finds herself, for the first time in her life, entirely cut off from the help or advice of one of her own sex; except perhaps the police-court sister, who is untrained in matters of law, or the wardress, with whom she is not supposed to converse. The woman's point of view is never brought to bear upon a case as regards the administration of the law. The offending woman is arrested by a man, charged at the police-court before a man, by a man, she is conducted to the cells by a man, and,—mark the grave importance of this,—while there she is under the intimate supervision, *night and day*, of men only. She is taken from the cells to the courts by men, prosecuted by a man, defended

by a man, condemned by a jury of men, sentenced by a man and that sentence is carried out by men.

Now I do not propose in this article to deal with a big question which must shortly be brought forward strongly by women in the interest and protection of their own sex,—namely, the admission of women into the legal profession,—I only wish at present to concentrate on the great importance of policewomen.

During the years of war there have been women police-patrols, both paid and voluntary, working in the streets of our big towns by night; and that these patrols are doing very necessary and excellent work I do not deny. But a patrol is not a policewoman, and it is easy enough to obtain permission from local authorities for women to go out into the public streets on a benevolent rescue or preventive mission which costs the state nothing. It is a very different (though an infinitely more important) matter, to force the authorization of all municipal councils for the employment and payment of trained, uniformed policewomen, having the power and majesty of the law behind them, to work *inside all prisons and police-courts*, and particularly as custodians of women and children in the cells.

However solitary a prisoner may be, privacy is a luxury which for various reasons must be denied to him or her. A policeman is, therefore, on duty day and night outside the cells. He walks up and down the corridor between them, glancing as he does so through an opening which is cut in each door for the purpose of letting him see at once everything that is going on inside the cell. What is this system, administered by men to women, but an application of that "hardening process" which transforms the first offender into the common criminal? To the female prisoner whose offence has not been against decency it is an outrage, and on those who are undergoing punishment for an

immoral crime it can exercise nothing but an adverse influence.

These policemen custodians must be replaced by policewomen, not only in the larger prisons, where I believe wardresses are now permitted to patrol instead, but in every police station where offenders are detained for the night.

It should also be the duty of policewomen to attend in courts when an offence against decency is being tried, provided it concerns a woman or a girl child. I was told the other day about a case of child-rape, where the evidence was so vile that the judge actually asked the little girl's mother to leave the court! How long is the womanhood and motherhood of the country going to tolerate this state of affairs? Wherever there is a woman or a child in the Court there the policewoman must be admitted; justice demands it, decency rules that it cannot be otherwise.

Women and children must be put under the probation of policewomen and not policemen. Policewomen, and not policemen, must obtain evidence from women and children in cases of rape or indecent assault; policewomen, and not policemen, must caution first offenders in prostitution about the first symptoms of venereal disease. It must be policewomen, and not policemen, who shall accompany women suffering from the disease to Lock Hospitals. Policewomen, and not policemen, must be the custodians of prostitutes while in the dock. The absolute necessity of this reform is obvious to any decent, thinking woman.

WOMEN AND THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

There seems little doubt that a Special Commission of women will be appointed to bring before the Peace Congress women's views upon questions immediately affecting women and children. Representatives from the Inter-Allied Conference of Suffrage Societies recently held in Paris were very well received by President Wilson, M. Clemenceau, and other leading statesmen, who all favoured the proposal. We understand that M. Clemenceau will take up the question of the representation of women's interests, and will support the placing of women

It is not enough for deputations of women's societies to go about humbly petitioning this chief constable and that to give the policewoman a trial. Women, being citizens at last, have now the power to insist upon reforms directly affecting their own sex; and one of the most important of these is the compulsory addition of at least two policewomen to every police station in the United Kingdom.

Seven counties and twenty-four cities and boroughs in England and Wales employ policewomen. The idea is that wherever a woman or a child comes in contact with the law the point of contact shall be a woman official, and that wherever the work done by the mere presence of a constable is likely to affect women and girls that work shall be done by a woman, and sometimes by a woman only. Many of these policewomen are engaged and paid by private societies or churches, and do not enjoy the privilege of being sworn in. In some towns, however, as, for instance, Carlisle, they are taken on by the chief constable, paid out of the rates and given the full power of arrest just like the men constables. This is the only satisfactory way of employing them. Their adoption should not be allowed to be optional according to the fancy of local authorities, but compulsory by Act of Parliament, and while this great administrative field is closed to women the attainment of an equal standard for both sexes (an object of such vital importance to us, the mothers of future generations) will be indefinitely delayed.

on all Special Commissions set up by the Peace Conference. We note that M. Clemenceau, who is an opponent of woman suffrage, as well as an anti-clerical, said that there is no logical reason against the suffrage, but he feared the power of the priesthood on women in catholic countries. The *Common Cause* pertinently remarks that the assassin's bullet may have carried the conviction to his mind that there may be something more inimical to order and progress than the influence of the Roman Catholic Church.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Owing to a fire at the premises of the printers, the *CATHOLIC CITIZEN* has been unavoidably delayed this month.

* * *

We publish in another column a report of our annual meeting. We call the attention of those who were unable to be present to the emergency resolution, which was passed unanimously, pledging the C.W.S.S. to press for immediate legislation by which a scheme for Widows' Pensions shall become law. We have already printed three articles on Mothers' Pensions in the "*Catholic Citizen*," and our readers will be familiar with the system as it exists in the United States. Indeed one of the articles was by Judge Henry Neil, the founder of the system, from whom we learn that the Catholic Church in America was one of the greatest forces in getting the Mothers' Pensions laws enacted.

* * *

We regret that Mrs. Christitch was unable to be present at the meeting, but she sent her greetings to us, and gave us the welcome news that Miss Annie Christitch has just started an undenominational Society for Woman Suffrage in Serbia, where she is at present, and that she has the warm support of all the men returned from the front.

* * *

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies will be known for the future as the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Miss Eleanor Rathbone succeeds Mrs. Fawcett as President.

* * *

Unfortunately the United States Senate has again rejected the suffrage amendment. Fifty-five votes were cast in favour of the resolution and twenty-nine against, that is, one vote less than the necessary two-thirds majority. The great western democracy still remains to a great extent a male democracy, and the voice of America speaking in the cause of freedom must necessarily lose in authority until she gives

freedom to her women. Speaking of the conferring of the suffrage on women, President Wilson said some time since: "These great days of the completed achievement would be sadly marred were we to omit that act of justice." The act of justice has been omitted.

* * *

Meanwhile news comes from Vienna that six women have been elected to the German-Austrian Assembly, and it is said that thirty-six women were elected in Germany, six of whom belong to the Centre Party.

* * *

From the *Tablet* we learn that Belgian Catholics are giving their support to the principle of universal suffrage. In his speech in the Senate Father Keesen quoted St. Thomas Aquinas to prove that this greatest doctor of the Church was a supporter of universal suffrage, of which the speaker declared woman suffrage was a logical sequence. In Italy the *Partito popolare*, avowedly Catholic, also puts woman suffrage on its programme.

* * *

Our friends of the Church League for Women Suffrage have changed the name of their society to "The League of the Church Militant." They stand for the establishment of equal rights and opportunities for men and women both in Church and State.

* * *

Six women candidates have been elected in the L.C.C. elections. They are Mrs. Hudson Lyell (Mod.), Fulham; Mrs. Hopkins (Mod.), St. Pancras; the Duchess of Marlborough (P.), Southwark; Miss Margaret McMillan (Lab.), Deptford; Miss Susan Lawrence (Lab.), Poplar; Mrs. Lamartine Yates (Ind.), Lambeth, N.; Lady Trustram Eve (Mod.), N. Hackney, and Miss Adler (P.), Central Hackney, were returned unopposed. The Moderates retain the majority. Mrs. How Martyn has been elected for Hendon in the Middlesex County Council elections.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Office: 55, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W. 1.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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Monthly, post free, 1s. 6d. per annum.

Hon. Editor	MISS LEONORA de ALBERTI.
Hon. Treasurer	MISS BRADY.

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

THE STATE IN DOUBLE HARNESS.

Of recent times many interesting Government reports have been issued, none more so than that issued by Lord Haldane's Machinery of Government Committee, which ranges from the size and procedure of the Cabinet to administrative details of nearly all Government departments. The terms of reference were:—"To enquire into the responsibilities of the various departments of the Central Executive Government, and to advise in what manner the exercise and distribution by the Government of its functions should be improved." Of particular interest is the Committee's view that the Cabinet should be small in numbers and the final determination of its policy should be submitted to Parliament. In suggesting the creation of a Ministry of Research and Information the Committee makes the sadly amusing remark that "the duty of investigation and thought as preliminary to action might with great advantage be more definitely recognised." But it is the part dealing with women in the Civil Service, which reflects in a special manner the new ideas that are abroad, and which if it bears fruit should mark a very definite advancement in the position of women. For the Committee says:—"Our terms of reference entrust us with the duty of advising 'in what manner the exercise and distribution by the Government of its functions should be improved,' and we are strongly of opinion that among the changes that should be made as conducive to this end must certainly be included an extension of the range and variety of the duties entrusted to women in the Civil Service

and in practically all departments." And again, "We think that it is no longer expedient in the public interest to exclude women on the ground of sex from situations usually entered by the Class I. examination, or from other situations usually entered by competition."

"In our opinion there are, apart from those administrative posts for which either a man or a woman of sufficient education and experience may be equally suitable, certain posts, both in the Higher Division and in other grades, for which women, if properly qualified, are, *prima facie*, more suitable than men. These posts should, we think, in future be assigned to women, and, as regards other posts, we think that the test of eligibility should have no relation to the question of sex, but should be whether a particular candidate, male or female, is in all respects the one who appears best qualified and most likely to perform efficiently the duties attaching to a particular post."

On the question of remuneration the Committee while expressing the opinion that no discrimination can be enforced merely on the ground of sex, leave the matter to be adjusted till such time as the Government enquiries upon the question are concluded. The report continues:—"We restrict ourselves here, therefore, to the general statement of our conviction (1) that the absence of any substantial recourse to the services of women in the administrative staffs of departments, and still more in their intelligence branches (which we are unanimous in hoping to see set up by an increased number of departments), has in the past deprived the

LONDON & BRANCH NOTES.

Office: 55, Berners St., W.1. Hours: 3-30—5-30. Saturdays: 10-30—12-30. Other times by appointment.

Our member, Miss A. E. Elliott, is on the Executive Committee of the Ministry of Health Watching Committee. Members will be in the House of Commons when the Standing Committee is discussing the Bill.

We are pleased to note that Mrs. Macdonald, a member of our Liverpool Committee, is one of the nominated representatives for the diocese of Liverpool on the National Catholic Board of Adult Rescue.

We call the attention of our members to the notice of our stall at the sale organized by the Women's International League.

* * *

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Org. Sec.: Miss A. J. Musson, Fair View West, Rainhill, Lancs.

A meeting will be held at 6, Lord St., Liverpool, on Thursday, March 27th, at 7-30, when Miss C. Leadley Brown, M.B.E., will speak on "Proposed Pensions for Widows of Civilians." All members and friends are invited to attend.

REVIEW.

WOMAN: A Citizen. By A. E. Metcalfe, B.Sc., with a preface by Mrs. Sidney Webb, D.Litt. (Geo. Allen & Unwin, 2/6 nett.)

In this handbook for women electors Miss Metcalfe gives us a lucid account of the whole system of government prevailing in the British Empire. She explains the parliamentary procedure, the judicial system of England and Wales, the various political parties, the passing of Bills, everything that a citizen should know about the government of our land. It is an admirable survey, and should be an invaluable addition to the text books of the new Study Circles and Citizen Associations. We can heartily recommend it also to our Convent Schools.

public service of a vast store of knowledge, experience and fresh ideas, some of which would, for particular purposes, have been far more valuable and relevant than those of even the ablest of the men in the Civil Service, and (2) that for the effective arrangement and performance of the largely extended duties which we think that women should undertake in the Civil Service, it will be essential that one or more women of special qualifications and experience should regularly be included in responsible posts as a part of the staff of that separate branch of the Treasury which we have unanimously suggested should be set up to specialize in 'establishment' work, and to study all questions of staff recruitment classification, etc., in application to the several departments of State."

And again in dealing with the Ministry of Health the Committee urge that the knowledge and experience of women should be recognised not only in the composition of the advisory bodies, but in the formation of the staff, both professional and administrative, of the department.

Did the presence of one woman, Mrs. Sidney Webb, on the Committee have this electrifying result? Whatever the reason there is the report, issued in the year of grace 1918, and published by His Majesty's Stationery Office. Anyone may purchase it for 6d. And now when is the Government going to act upon it? Let Mr. Lloyd George be up and doing.

L. DE ALBERTI.

* * *

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We shall have a stall at this sale, and appeal to members to send gifts to the Secretary, 55, Berners St., W.1, as soon as possible. Articles may be either new or second-hand, suitable for a jumble sale.

EQUAL PAY AND THE FAMILY.

One of the most pressing problems of the day and one which has become more acute since the introduction of women into the skilled trades, is the question of "equal pay for equal work," that is, should women be paid the same wages as men for the same work? The question as to what constitutes equal work bristles with difficulties, but there is one kind of work which has been called the noblest work of all, which women do and for which up to the present they have received no direct payment, namely, the bearing and rearing of children. In order that a woman should receive direct payment for that work done by her, the Family Endowment Committee* has drawn up a scheme of family endowment whereby the mother would be able to draw grants for herself and children extra to and outside whatever the man might give her. To quote from the report, "The amount of food and other necessities which each child depends on:—(a) The wages of the father, (b) the number of children in the family—two totally irrelevant factors." It is essential that a new system should be introduced which would give to the family with children an amount—over and above the wages earned by the father—based on the actual number of children in the family. It is proposed to grant a sum per week; 12s. 6d. has been suggested to the mother of children under five and also a definite sum for each child until he arrive at the age of fourteen. One of the chief objections of the scheme might appear to be the general lowering of wages of men, as the burden of bringing up a family would to some extent be removed, but it would certainly have the effect of breaking down the habit of paying women less than a man, because it is said they have only themselves to help. This question is to be left to the effect of (a) "the efficiency of labour," (b) most important "the bargaining of labour," which would no doubt be helped by the scheme as men would be able to hold out longer and be therefore more able to get their demands in a strike; (c) "the number of wage earners competing in the labour market." We may gather that the endowment scheme would have little or no bad effect on the wages. As to the method of paying for the scheme, it is suggested in the report that the cost should be raised by a tax averaging 5 per cent., or 1s. in the pound on all incomes or 2s. in the pound without any alteration in the

* "Equal Pay and the Family." A proposal for the National endowment of motherhood. Hindley Bros., 1/-

present level of exemption from income tax, and would cause a considerable amount of saving to be effected in the present expenditure on poor relief, hospitals and also prisons and police. It has been suggested that an alternative scheme of raising money and method of administration could be met by a system of insurance.

This would appear to be a more suitable way of dealing with the question! It should be State insurance on the same principle as the present State health insurance, and the endowment as in the case of sickness or maternity benefit, paid jointly by husband and wife, by deductions from his wages and received by them in grants commencing sometime before the birth of the first child, as is done now for educational purposes by some of the insurance companies and paid back in lump sum when the child is twelve or fourteen years old. The risks would be no greater in this than in cases of sickness or maternity grants. It would be essential that it should be paid only if the man and woman were legally married according to the law of the country and also if they were living together—for others another scheme would have to be considered.

To turn again to the report, it is disappointing to find that some of the Committee advocate allowing grants for children up to the fourth only, this might be an incentive for parents to limit their families to four and is a suggestion objectionable to Catholics. Moreover, the loss by some families only having one or two children or losing some by death in infancy could not be made good if some did not have more than four, and it has been said that to help a population up it is necessary that there be an average of four children to a family.

The chapter on the unmarried mother and her children is interesting, as it seems to offer a solution to the problem of how to help the child born out of wedlock and to prevent the large infantile mortality which is found among children of these unmarried mothers. It, however, would be dangerous so make grants to the woman without insisting on the father contributing directly and substantially to the cost of keeping and bringing up the child, either by deducting a given amount from the man's wages or enforcing the maintenance orders. This may also be applied to the case of women who come under the category of deserted wives. One danger of the scheme might be the increase in inspection in the homes of the people, but

that would be guarded against in any set scheme drawn up.

If the scheme, as the Committee claims, means better health for the community—an improvement in the status of women, a higher standard of living and an increase in the birth-rate; if it means an improvement in matrimonial relations and the strengthening of the marriage tie, it is verily a scheme to be supported by Catholics, and should be studied by them.

A. J. M.

COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY INTO SEXUAL MORALITY.

The second meeting of the Committee of Enquiry took place on January 27th, to receive evidence from two witnesses on the subject of existing laws dealing with public order in the streets, solicitation and methods of dealing with prostitution.

Sir Charles Tarring presided.

The first witness was Miss Costin, now Assistant-Superintendent at Cope Hall Colony, Newbury, and previously a police constable at Oxford with full powers of arrest. Miss Costin gave her personal experience of the working of the solicitation laws, and of the administration of Regulation 40D, D.O.R.A. She did not think any advantage was gained by special laws against prostitutes; they could be equally well dealt with under general laws relating to disorderly conduct.

The second witness was Mr. E. Basil Wedmore, who had been associated with the Committee of Social Investigation and Reform. He had a great objection to Homes and thought their effect bad, not only on the inmates, but also on the workers in charge of them. Girls beginning a promiscuous life should be treated just as we would treat a young man whom we wanted to get into better ways of living. The witness believed, from his observation and knowledge of girls beginning promiscuity, that they have as difficult a fight for chastity as men have, but if they could quickly be re-absorbed into normal life their difficulties in making good would be no greater than those of men who had made the same initial failure. He thought the age of consent should be raised to twenty-one. He knew cases where men had deliberately undermined the moral resistance of young girls, and had used all their experience to compass their seduction.

Speaking generally the witness thought it was more necessary to enforce administration of the present laws than to make new ones. If the police were told to stop molestation by either sex they could do so.

He advocated joint effort by men and women in dealing with all problems where both sexes were concerned, and instanced the successful work of lady welfare workers in large establishments. He thought there should be a special department of the labour exchanges to deal with difficult cases, with powers to exercise supervision, and working on lines successfully employed under the L.C.C. for the welfare of children.

In connection with police court procedure, the witness thought all persons arrested should be handed a simply-worded statement, pointing out their rights in regard to defence, remand, bail, calling witnesses, etc., and explaining the procedure of the court in advance of their appearance, so that they would know when to ask questions, and when to offer statements.

The next meeting of the Committee of Enquiry will be on Feb. 10th, and once a fortnight subsequently. The Committee will be glad to hear from persons who can give useful information on any subject coming within the terms of reference. Those are "to inquire into the laws and their administration and other methods for dealing with sexual promiscuity and to make recommendations thereon." Write to Secretary, Enquiry Committee (Association for Moral and Social Hygiene), 19, Tothill Street, S.W. 1.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE C.W.S.S.

The annual meeting was held at the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. The chair was taken by Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A., in the absence of the Chairman, the Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch. Miss Fitzgerald spoke of the past history of the Society, and the opposition which it had encountered, but in spite of all attempts to crush it the C.W.S.S. had won through. The Society stood for equality between men and women, no profession should be closed to women; many inequalities still existed and must be removed.

Miss Fennell, in moving the adoption of the annual report, said that it gave evidence that the C.W.S.S. was taking its full share in the public life of the nation, and was co-operating in many fields with non-Catholic societies. There had been a wonderful awakening of the womanhood of the nation, which was not only due to the conferring of the vote, but the seed which had been planted by suffragists was at last bearing fruit, and the apathy of women which had been so great a barrier to their progress was fast disappearing. In seconding the adoption of the report, Mrs. V. M. Crawford said that it showed that the C.W.S.S. had widened out on the lines suggested at the last annual meeting. She would speak only of one valuable piece of work done by the C.W.S.S., and which other Catholic societies fought shy of, and that was the agitation against regulation 40D. She was sure that Father McNabb's address on the subject, afterwards printed in the "Catholic Citizen," had borne good fruit. The adoption of the financial statement was moved by Miss Rochford, and seconded by Miss Agnes Mott. Miss Mott, in congratulating the C.W.S.S. on the work of the year, reminded her audience that besides the equality between men and women, there was another kind of equality, which she hoped the C.W.S.S. would work to obtain, and that was equality of justice between rich and poor. Miss St. John then addressed the meeting and spoke of the importance of every member of the C.W.S.S. educating herself to discharge the duties of citizenship. She had great faith in women once they began to think, and when they fully understood the situation she thought a different House of Commons would be returned to power than the one that had been just elected. It was significant that the only woman elected to Parliament was one in whom there was no spirit of compromise.

At the close of the meeting the following emergency resolution was put from the chair:—"That this Society pledges itself to press for immediate legislation by which a scheme for Widows' Pensions shall become law." Mrs. V. M. Crawford said it gave her great pleasure to second the resolution. It was a truly Catholic and practical work for the Society to do. The greatest failure of the Poor Law was its treatment of widows; to be a widow with children and no means would seem to be a crime. Judge Neil's system of Widows' Pensions had been most successful in the United States. The resolution was carried unanimously. Before the meeting broke up Miss Gadsby appealed for subscriptions to the "Office Rent Fund."

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Office—55, Berners St., Oxford St., London, W.
Patron: Blessed Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White & Gold
Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 1d. 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.

METHODS.

1. Strictly non-party
2. Active propaganda by political and educational means.

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.

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IN THE

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March 19th—Speaker: **Mr. HOMER LANE** (of the Little Commonwealth)
Subject: "The Psychology of Freedom"

" 26th—Speaker: To be announced.

April 2nd—Speaker: **Lady WOLSELEY**.
Subject: "Our American Cousins."

" 9th—**Mr. A. M. KROUGLIAKOFF** (member of Petrograd Bar)
Subject: "Russia and the League of Nations."

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