

WOMEN'S SERVICE
FILE COPY

THE

Catholic Citizen

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

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MAY, 1946.

Price Twopence.

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.

Grace Hadow*

By P. C. Challoner.

I am glad that it has fallen to me to comment on this delightful book, for it has stirred half-forgotten memories of happy days at Oxford, when, as a fresher, I admired from afar, the brilliant subject of this memoir. It is a record of more than a vivid and beloved friend, it shows the "pattern of her life" emerging from what seem at first like chance calls to service.

She might so easily have been a devoted daughter at home, contented and useful in a thousand parochial ways, but her obvious promise moved even her own brother, then an Oxford Don and an opponent of degrees for women, to persuade their parents to allow her to go to Somerville, where she soon achieved distinction. After a year at Bryn Mawr College, U.S.A., she went back to Oxford, and became resident tutor at Lady Margaret Hall in 1904. From 1909 to 1917 she stayed with her widowed mother "a job no one else can do," and combined it with a non-resident lectureship at L.M.H., various local activities in Cirencester, work for Woman Suffrage, and, after 1914, for refugees and prisoners of war.

Her students at Oxford remember her as a vivid and stimulating teacher, but neither she nor they realised, that the side-issues in which she was engaged were to lead to what was perhaps the most important work of her life. It was during this period, when she had "eliminated personal ambition," and given up the fascination of purely scholarly work, that she wrote "I've just been elected a member of the Gloucestershire Chamber of Agriculture—a very odd effect of the war on an Oxford teacher of English literature." Soon after, the Cirencester Women's Institute was established. From that small beginning the movement for Women's Institutes (founded by Mrs. Alfred Watt on the model of the Canadian

Institutes) spread and flourished. This was undoubtedly a sphere in which Miss Hadow's particular gifts found scope; she believed that culture was accessible in a measure to all, and she carried this belief with her when, in 1917, she became responsible for a sub-section of the Welfare Department of the Ministry of Munitions. Apart from her success in dealing with "the psychological and physical requirements of the workers" she gave them lectures, after hours, and their responsiveness proved that "factory hands" would "listen to such stuff" and enjoy it. She was a true democrat in her appreciation of "ordinary people," and she believed that the Women's Institutes were not only a means for developing individual and community life, but a valuable training in the use of the vote. She had from early days definite views on Woman Suffrage, which were unaffected by her beloved brother and godfather's opposition, though she abjured politics, calling herself "an individualist anarchist."

Miss Deneke says that, despite the many committees on which she served, her work for each was "as if it were the only one" and the same can be said of her friendships, and of her big enterprises and indeed of her holidays, to which two most fascinating chapters are given.

To everything she touched she brought an alert, fresh and invigorating mind; her years at Barnett House after the war strengthened her knowledge of, and belief in, Rural Community Life and Adult Education; her years as Principal of the Society of Oxford Home Students brought home to generations of young students the value of the union of scholarship, with a wide interest in all varieties of human nature. She herself stressed the value of a high standard of criticism, and training in judgment, and the usefulness of short cuts in intellectual things, but, while valuing

* Grace Hadow, by Helena Deneke (Oxford University Press, 10s. 6d.).

University training for these things, she deplored the view that "university education is a mark of special distinction and something that every intelligent girl should aim at." If only we could see education as a whole, and work, domestic science, scholarship, all as facets of the same thing, all equally worth while, we should spare some misfits and much unnecessary anguish.

She developed the O.S.H.S. into the integrated body it has become, and with "sympathy for their needs," helped the increasing number of Catholic students to find their place in it. She developed the buildings as well as the Society itself and it was in the hope of gaining funds for this purpose that she undertook a lecture tour in the U.S.A. in 1939. When her plans were already made she was asked by Lionel Curtis to go to Australia as a delegate to a conference on British Commonwealth Relations which was being organised by the Royal Institute of International Affairs. She realised that she "had been added at the last minute as an obvious afterthought," but her response was characteristic, "I feel I must do this queer job." Though she went as a learner, she was soon recognised as a most valuable member of the delegation. James Dillon, who became an admiring friend, wrote, "Grace Hadow was appointed our first Chairman as a gesture of courtesy to the only woman and her work saved a great, if hazardous, experiment." She was, of course, a thoroughly experienced Chairman, but the "tough guys from South Africa and Canada opened their eyes as she proceeded to control the less relevant members of the Conference." The impact of her personality drew the members together, both Lionel Curtis and Professor Zimmern bear witness to her influence.

She then came back via U.S.A. to fulfil her engagements there and this turned into a tour in which she was the invaluable, if unconscious, agent for Great Britain, for it was the time of the attack on Czecho-Slovakia and everywhere she was asked to discuss the crisis rather than to give the advertised lecture. Miss Deneke, who waited for her at Ottawa so that they might travel home together, heard talk of an Englishwoman who "was doing quite excellent work in U.S.A. in these difficult days."

This was her last piece of service, and it was undoubtedly the cause of her death, for she was worn-out when she fell ill a year later and had not strength to resist.

This is certainly a book to read, for a mere introductory comment can give no idea of the wit and humour, depth and charm of this loving but detached account of one of the outstanding women of the passing generation.

ST. JOAN'S IN AUSTRALIA.

Nationality. Thanks to the prompt and efficient action of St. Joan's in Australia within a day of two of our request, we received a cable saying that Dame Enid Lyons, Australian President of St. Joan's, had asked a question in Parliament and received the direct assurance from Mr. Chifley that he would raise the matter of the Nationality of Married Women at the meeting of the Dominion Premiers.

The Alliance was represented at the meeting at Melbourne Town Hall convened by the N.C.W. and also supported the deputation on this subject to the Prime Minister at Canberra, organised by the League of Women Voters.

Congratulations were sent to the Minister of Immigration on the Bill passed recently by which "a British woman resident in Australia shall, on marriage, retain her British nationality under Commonwealth law." A small expert committee, on which women will serve, is to be appointed to consider technical details as regards the international aspects of this subject.

At its first meeting of the year, in Melbourne, on the night of the cyclone, the Alliance had the honour of an inspiring talk from the Rev. H. D. Morris, M.S.C., D.D., Ph.D., on the "Holy Father's Address to Italian Women of 21st October, 1945." (Extracts from His Holiness' address were published in the November issue of the *Catholic Citizen*.) Father Morris considered the historical background conditioning the position of women and the part Catholic tradition or lack of it has played in determining their status. He went on to consider the Holy Father's pronouncement in detail and ended by exhorting St. Joan's Alliance, "It remains for you, members of St. Joan's, to do your share in implementing this programme; to infuse into the feminist movements a Catholic spirit, to swing many towards the Church by means of their interest in feminist and social problems.

"This is your chance, your duty, too. Fill yourselves with a spirit of enthusiastic obedience to the Vicar of Christ. It is for you to think out the details, but you must not remain inactive."

At the meeting on March 25th, plans were discussed for the expansion of the work and new office bearers were appointed. Mrs. J. Henry is the chairman; Miss Blackall and Miss Byrne, vice-chairmen; Miss Burgess is treasurer. Miss Margaret Flynn, the founder of the Australian Section of the Alliance, remains the able and enthusiastic hon. secretary.

FLAT. Information about four-roomed Flat in London (central) gratefully received by medical woman. Box 7, St. Joan's Alliance.

Notes and Comments

A most welcome statement on **Nationality** comes from General Smuts. A letter from his secretary to the South African N.C.W. says that General Smuts "is surprised to hear that South Africa is looked upon as the stumbling block in this matter. If there really is ground for this impression he is taking your letter with him to have it removed should the opportunity arise at the coming Conference of Prime Ministers in London."

With the removal of this stumbling block, Mr. Chifley's promise of raising the matter and Mr. Attlee's willingness to make arrangements for discussion, surely the desired "uniformity throughout the Empire" can now quickly be achieved and no vestige of excuse left for our own Government to put its house in order and introduce without delay, a Bill to give women equal and independent nationality rights with men.

Meantime, Lord Samuel has put down the following motion in the House of Lords for June 2nd: "to draw attention to the present law relating to the Nationality of Married Women, which deprives British women of their nationality on marriage with a foreigner, and also confers British nationality on any alien woman who marries a British subject, and to move for papers."

News has just reached us that Canada now leads the way with a Canadian Citizenship Bill at present before Parliament. Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State, introducing the Bill creating The Status of Canadian Citizenship in the Federal Parliament last October, said that "in the past married women have been classed with minors, lunatics and idiots. An anachronism which has no place to-day and all disabilities of married women have been eliminated in the Bill."

The marriage bar for women has been abolished in the Metropolitan Police Force. Shortage of candidates may have driven the authorities to take this step, but for whatever reason it is a welcome and long overdue one. A force of German police women is being organised in the British zone in Germany, under the supervision of two London Policewomen. It will be remembered that after the last war women police were sent out to Cologne as a result of pressure from the women's organisations; these Policewomen did invaluable work.

The appointment of Miss Mary Smieton, of the Ministry of Labour, as the United Nations Director of Personnel has been announced. Miss Mary

Smieton will receive a tax free salary of £2,750, plus £750 as representational allowance, a year. As one of the Principal Assistant Secretaries of the Labour Supply Departments of the Ministry of Labour, she received a salary less than that given to a man in similar circumstances despite the importance of the position. U.N.O. does not discriminate between the sexes.

It is a pleasure to congratulate Miss Barbara Ward on her appointment as a Governor of the B.B.C. We are happy to count Miss Ward among the members of St. Joan's Alliance.

We offer our congratulations to Bishop David Mathew who has been appointed Apostolic Delegate to Africa for the Missions, and has been named Titular Archbishop of Pelusium.

The territory covered by Bishop Mathew's new appointment includes all the British colonies in East and West Africa and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia, Cameroons, Nigeria, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, Mauritius, and the Seychelles Islands.

This post was previously held by the late Cardinal Hinsley who, as readers will remember, made the following statement before he left Africa: "The great opportunity before the Church lies specially in the rescue of womanhood, that is in the true education of African girls and African women." And he stressed the need for priests and competent teachers and nurses as "European missionaries cannot hope to perfect the work they have begun."

Following our note concerning the election of our member, Mrs. Winifred Russell, to the Godstone Rural District Council, we learn that she has already scored her first victory, in that her proposition that a Sub-Food Office should be set up in Lingfield has been carried. She also joined in the protest against an advertisement by the council for a man to apply for a particular post and ultimately the words "or woman" were inserted.

We offer our congratulations to Dr. Marita Shattock on her marriage to Dr. Eric Harper, and wish them many years of happiness.

The Fourteenth Congress of the International Alliance of Women is to be held at Interlaken from August 10th to 17th, 1946. Those willing to go please send in their names to the office before May 24th, when our Committee will meet to appoint the delegates from St. Joan's.

MISS P. C. CHALLONER, M.A., *Chairman.*
 MISS F. A. BARRY, *Hon. Secretary.*
 MISS PAULINE M. BRANDT.
 MISS BARCLAY CARTER, Lic.-ès. L.
 MISS GRAHAM.
 MRS. JACKSON, B.A.
 MRS. HALPERN, B.A.

MRS. ISABEL POWELL-HEATH, M.B., Ch.B.
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 MRS. SHATTOCK, M.B., B.S., D.P.M.
 MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER, *Hon. Editor*

"Catholic Citizen."

About the Rights of Married Women in Chile.

The pagan Indians of South Chile were never permanently subdued by Spain but were forcibly incorporated in the republic, and allotted certain areas of land, during the 'eighties of last century. Since that date they have lost their old intermittent enjoyment of gross plenty, interrupted by dearths caused by weather or war or epidemics or carelessness, for they have not adapted themselves to modern agricultural economy. An appallingly large proportion of them have become tuberculous. Their rate of infant mortality cannot be compared with what it was when they were independent, since they then ignored statistics, but it is tragically high. Only the extreme fertility of the race keeps it in existence.

The position of the women has not deteriorated. The men, masters now of so little, no longer warriors or great hunters, have sunk into drunkenness and apathy. But the women seldom drink to excess and are too busy to be apathetic. As has been this people's wont from time immemorial, the women not only cook and care for the children but also do all the day-to-day work on the land and among the animals, and they spin, weave and make baskets, thus producing the Indians' most profitable merchandise.

This people is polygamous, and since wives are so useful a man has as many as he can afford to keep. Only two or three in these days of impoverishment. It is usual to find in a cacique's *ruca*—his big hut—two fires on the earthen floor. By the remoter one a middle-aged or elderly woman sits in her minutes of ease, while a younger woman, the mother of the swarm of children, presides over the fire near the entrance. Both wives, and any elder unmarried daughters of the cacique, work at the loom and plait straw and withies.

A man has as many wives as he can keep, not as many as he can buy. For the women of this people are not sold into marriage. A woman comes to her husband with her dowry, perhaps a cow and two working oxen. If he ill-treats his wife enough to exhaust her patience, she returns to her father's *ruca*, driving her beasts before her, a baby strapped to her back, children trotting

beside her. Her children and animals are hers always.

This respect for women's rights has affected the Christian and Spanish-speaking peasants of Central Chile, whose blood is quite eighty per cent. Indian, so that the force of public opinion among them prevents any man from touching his wife's earnings.

Among the pagans of the south it creates a formidable difficulty for the Christian missionaries. To marry a man by the law of the land which gives a wife no rights over her own property, hardly any over her own children: the Indian woman does not find that her status as his sole legal wife compensates her for what she loses. Her conversion to Christianity is thus penalized. And so, for exactly the same reasons, is the legal marriage of peasant and other working women in the centre and the north.

Chilean law does indeed empower women to marry under the regime called *separacion de bienes*, which allows them to retain their own property. But in fact working women never enjoy *separacion de bienes*. Hardly any of them have ever heard of it. Even in the propertied class many women do not claim it. To do so was in the recent past unfashionable; it marked a woman as inelegantly independent. This prejudice is lessening among the educated but it lingers.

Thus a crying need of Chile is for a Married Women's Property Act. And it may come soon for opinion is tending towards feminism. Consider, for instance, the following excerpt from a recent editorial article in the *Diario Ilustrado*, the strongly Catholic organ of the Right:

"The responsibility (that of inscription in the electoral registers) belongs now to men and to women, for the latter vote in the municipal elections. Gradually the law has given women municipal rights which will increase, and therefore women must show themselves civilly and politically conscious, and able to equip themselves with the instruments they need to make the weight of their opinion felt at the polls."

HELEN DOUGLAS IRVINE.

Parliament Month by Month

This month, the period before the Easter Recess, which lasted from 18th to 30th April, was necessarily overshadowed by the Budget and by the grim question of the world food shortage. One or two individual points of interest can, however, be picked out. There is the burning question of **Married Women's Nationality**. Asked by Major Symonds, on 18th April, whether "in view of the statement of the Australian Prime Minister that he is proposing to raise the question of the nationality of married women during the forthcoming conversations in London, and of the fact that South Africa is now in accord with the policy announced by His Majesty's Government in 1931, he will reconsider his decision not to discuss this issue with all the Dominion Prime Ministers during the London conversations," the Prime Minister replied, none too warmly, "In my previous reply to which my Hon. and gallant Friend refers, I explained the reasons which seemed to me to preclude the discussion of this matter at the forthcoming meeting of Prime Ministers. If, however, the Dominion Prime Ministers desire that there should be an interchange of views on this subject I should be glad to make such arrangements as may be practicable." Let us hope that more than a mere "exchange of views" will be "practicable."

This Parliament, and indeed the Government too, continues to show excellent intentions towards coloured peoples. We note with pleasure the statement by the Under-Secretary of State for Air on April 3rd that "All British subjects, without distinction of colour or descent, are now equally eligible for the Royal Air Force," and trust that this will apply equally to any permanent WAAF establishment that may be envisaged. We are also pleased to note, in an answer by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to a question by Mr. Sorensen on April 10th, that "The provision of extended **educational facilities for African women and girls** forms part of a seven-year plan for female education in Kenya." "£39,000," he said, "has been included for the building of three provincial centres for the training of African women teachers. Two of the Principals . . . have already been appointed. . . . It is also intended to establish a secondary school for African girls. I may add that a conference will shortly be held to review the whole field of African women's education in Kenya."

The House is getting restive about that Rip Van Winkle, the **Royal Commission on Equal Pay**. After the usual "nothing to add" reply from Mr. Morrison to his request, on April 2nd, for a date when their report was expected, Wing Commander Geoffrey Cooper went on to ask "Is the Minister

satisfied with the progress being made by this Commission?" Mr. Morrison replied: ". . . So far as I know, no undue delay should take place." Mrs. Manning then put the very relevant point, "In view of the fact that the references to this Commission include the social and economic consequences of making equal pay available for both men and women, will the Minister say whether we are to expect, after the Commission has reported, another long interval of time during which the Government will make up their mind what is to be the outcome?" Mr. Morrison replied: "I have not the least idea," whereupon Mrs. Castle voiced what is by now a very widespread feeling of exasperation by saying, "Is it not a fact that this Commission was originally set up by Mr. Churchill largely to gain time, when the demand for equal pay had become irresistible?" and Mr. W. J. Brown delivered a gloomy epitaph, "Is there any reason whatever to suppose that this Commission will ever report?"

The battle for the Women's Land Army continues, conducted this month by Lieut.-Colonel Sir Thomas Moore (on April 1st) and Major Digby (on 16th), to say nothing of a number of comments during the Agriculture (Manpower) debate on the 8th.

The Minister of Labour made an announcement on April 11th about **alien domestic workers**, stating that foreign women, with the sole exception of Germans, will be allowed annual permits to take up domestic work in this country, both for institutions and for private households—wages and conditions are to be those prevailing locally.

An interesting little apology was wrung out of the Home Secretary on April 11th by Mr. Corlett. The Chief Constable of the North Riding of Yorkshire forbade the wife of one of his constables to remain in employment as a teacher, and a local superintendent in the same area forced the wife of another constable to withdraw her candidature for the local rural district council. "In both cases," said Mr. Chuter Ede, "serious errors of judgment were made to which it is right that public attention should be called, and I am glad to have this opportunity of making it clear that such interferences with the private actions of constables' wives are not warranted by Police Regulations.

B. M. HALPERN.

It is proposed to hold a **Bring-and-Buy Sale** during June. Will members look up suitable gifts for this sale? Finances are low and we are eager to make enough profit to tide us over till the Christmas Sale.

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE

On April 12th the British Commonwealth League held a conference at Alliance Hall, Westminster on "Cultural Development in the Colonial Empire." Mrs. Corbett Ashby, presiding, quoted Mr. Creech Jones, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, as saying that our negative attitude towards the Colonial Empire had become a positive one. Trusteeship now meant giving an account of that trusteeship. She stressed the need for equal educational opportunities for men and women.

Mr. Harold Stannard, Colonial Editor of *The Times*, dealing with development in the West Indies, described the progress already made, and the expansion of welfare which had brightened village life. He said that the peoples of the West Indies constituted a plural society, composed of Africans, East Indians, Chinese, etc., and their problems should be solved by cultural fusion. He spoke of their love of music and their artistic gifts, and read some fine poetry.

He said the highest illegitimacy rate in the world exists in the West Indies, and this is because below a certain social level marriage does not occur, which condition will continue while the women accept a low status.

Miss Crozier Clark, B.A., a mistress from Barbados Girls' High School, gave a detailed account of the educational work done, and of the training of girls for business or professions.

There is a very good free Elementary School education available for all children from 5 to 14 years. There are first and second grade Secondary Schools and Private Schools, and a Kindergarten in the Ursuline Convent. There were, she said, no racial discriminations nor language difficulties to prevent children attending any type of school they liked, but there was a lack of teachers, of buildings, and especially of facilities for the training of teachers. Education is not compulsory and adult vocational training has been neglected.

Mr. Peter Blackman, also from Barbados, urged that the curriculum should be West Indian and not based on that of Oxford or Cambridge. Mr. Louis Byers, of Jamaica, considered that the greatest need was for civil and political education.

The Rev. H. M. Grace, formerly Principal of Achimota College, dealing with Cultural Development in British Africa, spoke of the work the Missionaries had been able to do in Uganda during the past thirty-five years in fighting disease and promoting peace between the tribes.

Mrs. Rita Macaulay, from Nigeria, described in detail methods of education in a country consisting of twenty-two millions of people of many

racess, languages and religions. She spoke of rural education, as well as of primary, secondary and adult education. Instructors were greatly needed in domestic science, nursing and co-operative marketing, and teachers were urgently required for junior and senior schools, as well as grammar schools. They hoped very much that one day a university would be provided.

Mr. D. A. Puplampu from the Gold Coast said that the Governor still had a veto over the decisions of the Governing Body.

The Rev. R. R. Young, who had worked for many years in Sierra Leone, described conditions in the Colony and the Protectorate, contrasting the differences in Freetown and the hinterland. More education and more industries were needed.

Mr. S. H. Chileshe, representing Northern Rhodesia, said that when the British bought the mineral rights in that country they built roads but neglected education until 1927, when the Colonial Office took over the administration. In 1930 elementary education was spread chiefly by Mission schools.

The following resolution was passed:

"The British Commonwealth League in Conference assembled urges upon the Government the importance of providing equal educational facilities for men and women in the Colonial Empire. . . The Conference considers that every effort should be made to ensure that the women who have remained at home should be afforded such educational opportunities as will enable them to take their place on an equal footing with men in the post-war world."

St. Joan's Alliance was represented by Miss Challoner, Miss Barry and Mrs. Crookenden.

ST. JOAN'S IN BRAZIL.

L'Alliança Santa Joanna d'Arc, with its fine motto, "*In Veritate in Caritate Laetitia*," is now a registered Society with an executive Committee and Councillors. Our old friend Doña Olympia de Passos is treasurer, while Doña Maria Herminia Lisboa, the founder of L'Alliança, is its devoted honorary secretary. Friendly relations have been established between the new Catholic University in Rio de Janeiro.

Resolutions concerning education and the status of the family have been sent by L'Alliança to various M.P's who are on the Commission, working on the draft of the new Constitution.

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International Notes

Austria. St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, damaged by fire during the war, is being restored under the direction of a woman architect.

* * *

France. Madame Pesson-Depret, Secretary General of the French Branch of the International Abolitionist Federation and President of l'Alliance St. Jeanne, writes: "Here is good news! Full victory! The Constituent Assembly has decided, without any debate or opposition, the closing of brothels throughout the country, the abolition of any registration of prostitutes and prosecution of all third party exploitation.. It could not possibly be clearer and more decided. There were two draft bills, one from the Government (from the Minister of Population—Family and Health) and one from the Commission of the Family of the Constituent Assembly. It was decided, as both had the same object, that the Government one only should be voted on, it was more complete. And here we are. This happened on Tuesday morning, April 9th. The Bill will come into operation in six months. The victory is great but we must keep both eyes open and see it does not remain theoretical."

Once more we congratulate Madame Pesson-Depret and her colleagues in the Abolitionist and Feminist Movements whose persistent work over a period of years has resulted in this triumph, which we hope will be the death-knell of state regulation the world over.

* * *

Greece. *The International Women's News* reports that a public meeting was held in Athens on February 6th, under the auspices of four of the chief Women's Organisations, at which a resolution was passed, unanimously, asking for equal franchise for men and women. Madame Avra Theodoropoulos, who presided, said that the women of Greece were conscious of their valuable contribution to the Allied cause; now they ask for justice and that equality laid down in the Charter of U.N.O. which Greece has signed.

Deputations were also organised to the leaders of all the political parties and were generally favourably received. We regret that the heroic women of Greece were not enfranchised in time to take part in the recent important elections and we hope they will have their votes for the next one.

* * *

Ireland. We offer our deep sympathy to our member, Mrs. Tom Kettle, on the death of her sister, Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington.

Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington was one of the leaders of the Suffragette campaign in Ireland. She was

imprisoned four times and went on hunger strike. She was "a grand fighter with tongue and pen." May she rest in peace.

* * *

Japan. Thirty women have been elected to the new Japanese Parliament. Our best wishes go with them in their difficult task.

* * *

Sweden. We have received several numbers of *Hertha*, the beautifully produced magazine of the Frederika Bremen Society. The March issue reports that among motions which have been submitted to Parliament is one regarding the taxation of married women. Taxation of wives' and husbands' united income, they say, discourages married women from working, which is lamentable at a time when all professional work is so necessary. Another unfortunate outcome of such taxation is that in some cases women choose to retain their work rather than marry, which again is bad for the country.

* * *

On April 30th the Committee had the pleasure of meeting Dr. H. Vèrène Borsinger, who paid a brief visit to this country on her way back to **Switzerland** from Ghent, where she had attended a meeting of the Board of the Youth Section of the International Catholic Women's Leagues.

Miss Borsinger, *Docteur en Droit* from Lucerne, spoke to us on the subject of her thesis, "*Die Rechtsstellung der Frau in der Katholischen Kirche*," submitted to the University of Zurich in 1929. The work deals with the legal position of women in the Church from early Christian days up to the present Canonical law. Dr. Borsinger also spoke of the discussions which arose after the publication of her thesis. She had the support of the famous Austrian theologian, Professor Dr. Albert Mitterer, who wrote a masterly monograph on the subject of "*Mann und Weib nach dem Biologischen Weltbild des He. Thomas und dem der Gegenwart*."

* * *

U.S.A. In a letter to the National Women's Party, Cardinal Dougherty declares himself to be in favour of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. B.A.C.

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STATUS OF WOMEN—U.N.O.

Owing to the kindness of Miss Harrison, on April 25th, members of the Liaison Group of British Women's Organisations had the privilege of meeting Mrs. Hansa Mehta, the new President of the All India Women's Conference and a member of the Upper House of the Bombay Legislature.

Replacing Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, she was *en route* for New York to attend the meetings of the United Nations' Sub-Commission on the **Status of Women** which opened on April 29th. She is taking with her the Charter of Women's Rights, drawn up by the Indian Women.

We look forward with great hope to the work of this Commission, consisting, as it does, of several distinguished women workers in the Woman's Movement. We were glad to have had the opportunity of discussing matters with Mrs. Mehta on her way out and eagerly await her report of the work of the Commission on her return journey.

Mrs. Roosevelt is chairman of the Commission on Human Rights which is sitting at present in New York.

REVIEWS

Dr. Duguid sends us the **Ernabella News Letter** which gives an account of the Ernabella Mission to the Australian Aborigines. This number contains the address given by Dr. Charles Duguid in the Scots Church, Adelaide, on Aborigine Sunday, 1945. It is an impassioned defence of the Aborigine and a plea for his rights.

The Economic Status of the Homemaker. By Phyllis Duguid.

We have received this interesting little pamphlet from Adelaide, South Australia, appealing that the homemaker should no longer have the low status of a "dependant" but that the community should "come to recognise its homemaker as its chief and most valued civil servant and . . . pay her accordingly." In the writer's opinion "no other measure can possibly raise the status of the homemaker, or give to a woman the sense of personal freedom and personal responsibility essential to full citizenship," and she has considered the problem from all angles in her well-written thesis. Members interested can obtain this from the office.

C.S.

It is a pleasure to receive, for the first time since the war, **The Pylon**, the quarterly magazine of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus (Rome) telling of their missionary work in Africa.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

NON-PARTY

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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 5s. 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.



THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN & ST. ELIZABETH

The Hospital was founded in 1856 by four Sisters of Mercy on their return with Florence Nightingale from the Crimean War. The Hospital contains 154 beds, including 34 beds for paying patients. Private rooms are available from 8 guineas per week. One ward is used exclusively for Nuns, and Private Rooms are set aside for Priests from the Diocese of Westminster.

Trained Nurses sent to patients' own homes. Apply to the Superintendent in Charge of the Trained Nurses' Institute, 134 Circus Road, N.W. 8. Telephone: Primrose 2788.

60 GROVE END ROAD, ST JOHN'S WOOD

Cunningham 5126.

N.W. 8.

DHB

Character from Handwriting. Helpful, interesting, true. A priest writes: "Certainly helpful." Send 1/3 and stamped envelope with specimen of writing. W.-f., St. Joan's Alliance, 55 Berners St., London, W.1.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Gabrielle Jeffery in the "Catholic Citizen,"
May, 1921.

We do not wish to conceal from our members the fact that the C.W.S.S. is in a most critical position financially. We share this in common with almost every organisation throughout the country. Money is an immediate and absolute necessity if the Society is not to close down.

We have tried many forms of appeal, we now make one in which every single reader can join. To-day (May 15th), on the octave of the feast of our Patron, St. Joan of Arc, we beg everyone to ask her most earnestly to obtain for us the necessary funds, if, as we trust, the work of the C.W.S.S. helps to further in some small degree the Kingdom of God on earth.—**A New Appeal.**