

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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

Francis Thompson.

Eleanor Rathbone

By Christine Spender

This Biography* brings the Eleanor Rathbone we remember vividly before us again. Those of us who had ever heard her speak will have retained an impression of earnestness combined with a kind of bashfulness which did not prevent the revelation of a mind which had ranged a number of subjects very deeply. But this is not all the story for the real mainspring of Eleanor Rathbone's life was an enormous compassion for the underdog and his cause. Even those who did not always agree with her realised this and hence the reason for the respect in which she was held as an M.P. and for the numbers of people, including those of the woman's movement who applied to her for help in her Parliamentary capacity.

Eleanor Rathbone came of a famous Liverpool family, famous both for their business ability and for the public service they willingly gave to the city. A unique Quaker and Unitarian inheritance must have supplied some of her social conscience and compassion. An ample income put at her disposal ensured that she was not side-tracked on to lesser objects than those she set herself.

The Biography reveals the number of causes which held her interest. From the early days when she started her public career as a member of the Liverpool City Council till the last year of her life when she had the joy and satisfaction of knowing that the system of Family Allowances had become law the sword never slept in her hand. She worked through the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies for votes for women and later for other points on the Society's programme—though many feminists felt that in this work she cast her net rather too widely at the expense of purely feminist ideals. The cause of Family Allowances was one of her earlier interests and it remained a *motif* for which she fought unceasingly.

When Eleanor Rathbone was elected independent M.P. for the combined Universities her hand was considerably strengthened in work for the causes which aroused her compassion and she became a personality to be reckoned with in Westminster. Though she never neglected the interests of her constituents she must often have puzzled

them by an extraordinary variety of courses of action. Sequence of cause and effect was always perfectly clear in her own mind, but not always clear to the outsider.

Female circumcision was one of the first abuses which exercised Eleanor Rathbone's mind as an M.P. She and the Duchess of Atholl managed to create a considerable stir on this subject and it is regrettable that the matter remains still highly unsatisfactory to this day, and that a champion has been lost who would doubtless have fought the fight to a finish. She followed this fight with an enquiry into the status of African women in connection with forced marriages, which enquiry brought her into contact with Nina Boyle and with Archdeacon Kavirondo. She spoke on this subject at a Conference called by the British Commonwealth League and also, be it noted, at a public meeting called by St. Joan's Alliance when Archdeacon Kavirondo was on the same platform. A question in Parliament resulted in a Governmental enquiry, reports being asked from "the responsible Administrative Officers of Kenya, Uganda, Nyasaland, Tanganyika, Northern Rhodesia, Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and Gambia."

Through reading Katherine Mayo's book, "Mother India," Eleanor Rathbone became interested in the question of Child Marriages in India and in the franchise of Indian women in the new Constitution of India. Unfortunately she started this campaign on the wrong foot through being connected with Katherine Mayo and never quite made up the ground lost in understanding. She had many friends among Indian women all her life—and yet she showed much misunderstanding of Indian aims. But her persistent work on the subject of Child Marriage did in the end bear fruit. She never quite saw the point of view of the women of the All India Women's Conference who preferred no woman suffrage to certain specialised forms of Indian woman suffrage. Later on, too, through the essential reasonableness of her outlook, she failed to understand the strength and significance of the civil disobedience in India which preceded Indian independence.

Towards the end of her Parliamentary career

* "Eleanor Rathbone": A Biography. By Mary D. Stocks. (Gollancz, 21s.)

the refugee problem, beginning with the German Jewish refugees right up to the displaced persons of the post-war period and the German expellees. Sometimes she must have been sadly disillusioned when nation after nation in which she had put her trust started up fresh refugee problems by ruthless methods of expulsion. What indeed would she have thought of the Arab refugees of to-day—for her interest in German Jewish refugees led her into an ardent belief in the efficacy of a Jewish national home in Palestine. In any case her ceaseless interest in this problem led her into many disputes with the Foreign Office in connection with passports and visas issued here to men and women often fleeing for their lives. It burdened her greatly to think of the many lives lost because of "the insolence of office and the law's delays," and in her opinion the trickle of refugees to this country should have been a torrent. Perhaps she was right—who can say? During the war the ruthlessness of the methods of internment of "enemy aliens" in this country exercised her greatly and it was mainly through her intervention that an enquiry was set up and many internees released while those who had to remain in camp had their conditions much improved. There is a touching picture, in this autobiography, of Eleanor Rathbone addressing the bewildered internees in the Huyton camp outside Liverpool and telling them they were not forgotten. Even those who did not quite understand what she was saying were comforted by the kind, motherly-looking figure standing in the rain to talk to them for their reassurance.

The more personal details in this book help to build up a lovable personality. There are the accounts of holidays spent in the country and domestic details of the home in Westminster and later in Highgate. Eleanor Rathbone, often absent-minded yet able and dependable and withal so lovable, appears before us as in life. Even her belated love for the black kitten, Smuts, is not omitted, and for all these details which make a complete and solid picture we should be grateful to Mrs. Stocks. Add them to the account of Eleanor Rathbone's public life and achievements and we have a satisfying Biography.

Continued from next column.

States, by accepting the amendment to Article VI, put an international seal of approval on a principle which is recognised by many Governments, Social Organisations and women as retrograde.

If France is unable to sign the Convention, it is to be hoped that she will at least cast her vote in favour of it and work towards such ends as will enable her to sign it at some later date.

RACHEL E. CROWDY,
International Bureau for the Suppression
of Traffic in Women and Children.
26th September, 1949.

DRAFT CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF TRAFFIC IN PERSONS AND OF THE EXPLOITATION OF THE PROSTITUTION OF OTHERS.

Some comments by Dame Rachel Crowdy on Article 6 of the above Convention which Convention has now been passed by the United Nations Assembly.

This Convention is intended to cover the exploitation of prostitution rather than prostitution itself.

ARTICLE VI.

Article VI of the Convention as it stands is the crux of the Convention, for the Commission of Enquiry appointed in 1924 to enquire into the extent of the international traffic in women and children and its causes stated that the system of State regulation and its licensed brothels was one of the most important causes of the traffic. It created an assured demand which the trafficker found it profitable to supply.

Article VI reads as follows:—

"Each Party to this Convention agrees to take all the necessary measures to repeal or abolish any existing law, regulation or administrative provision by virtue of which persons who engage in or are suspected of engaging in prostitution are subject either to special registration or to the possession of a special document or to any exceptional requirements for supervision or notification."

"This article," in the words of the Social Commission's Chairman, "if adopted would represent real progress in social legislation."

France, however, has proposed an amendment to Article VI, which reads as follows:—

"Each Party to this Convention agrees to take all necessary measures to repeal or abolish any existing law, regulation or administrative provision by virtue of which persons who engage in or are suspected of engaging in prostitution are subject either to special police registration or to the possession of a special document, **other than medical documents**, or to any exceptional requirements for supervision or notification **other than those in the interest of public health.**"

Delegates supporting Article VI of the draft Convention as it stands contend that to admit supervision gives tacit recognition to the evil which the United Nations is out to combat.

Many members of the Social Commission felt also that medical arrangements by which prostitutes were examined for V.D. would be contrary to the spirit and purposes of the Convention. They considered that all those suffering from V.D. should be treated in the normal clinics and that prostitutes should not be singled out from the rest.

Medical papers must of necessity imply compulsory medical examination, and a registration of the names of those women in possession of such papers becomes therefore a form of the State registration which the Convention is designed to abolish.

The French amendment recognises:—

- a principle of compulsory medical examination which is abhorrent to the women of the world;
- a system which gives a false guarantee of security and health to the men who associate with prostitutes, and
- a system which has been abandoned long ago by the most progressive States for reasons not only ethical but of health.

It has been said that unless her amendment is accepted, France will not sign the Convention. That would be unfortunate. It would, however, be far more unfortunate if the United Nations and its 59 member

Notes and Comments

On July 12th, 1948, His Holiness Pope Pius XII indicated the intentions of the Holy Year thus: "The sanctification of souls through prayer and penance, and unswerving loyalty to Christ and the Church. Activity on behalf of peace. . . . Realisation of social justice and works of charity for the lowly and the needy."

All those who wish to take part in the Holy Year festivities must apply to their **National and Diocesan Committees.** The President of the English National Committee is the Most Reverend George Craven, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, to whom English readers should apply for the Pilgrim's Envelope containing the Prayer Book, a Guide to Rome and the Pilgrim's Identity Card, together with the Pilgrim's Badge (the symbol of peace) and coupons entitling the holder to railway and sight-seeing reductions.

We send congratulations to Dame Enid Lyons, president of St. Joan's Alliance in Australia, on her return to Parliament at the recent elections.

His Lordship Bishop Beck, Chairman of the Catholic Education Council's Action Committee, held a Press conference at Archbishop's House on November 24th. He explained the Memorandum on Catholic Voluntary Schools issued by the Hierarchy last October and the present unsatisfactory position. We regret that no woman is on the Action Committee.

The Married Women (Restraint Upon Anticipation) Bill passed its third reading in the House of Commons on November 29th and now awaits the Royal Assent.

Medical history was made recently when Sir William Gilliatt, president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, installed Professor Hilda Lloyd as his successor. She is the first woman to hold the office of president of one of the Royal Colleges.

Miss Dorothy Garrod, who was the first woman to be elected a Professor at the University of Cambridge, has now been appointed head of the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology there. She will take up this position on October 1st, 1950. Miss Garrod is our co-religionist.

There are one or two corrections of statements in Mrs. Stock's Biography of Eleanor Rathbone that we feel obliged to make. In her account of the last stages of the equal franchise campaign in 1928, Mrs. Stocks seems to us not to give sufficient weight to the work of other bodies than the

N.U.S.E.C., such as those which constituted the Equal Political Rights Committee, in gaining the victory. Similarly, while her account of Miss Rathbone's dealings with the question of the franchise in India seems to us adequate and fair, she makes no mention of the support given by feminist societies in this country to the demands of the Indian women themselves.

Mrs. Daly, President of the New South Wales Section of St. Joan's Alliance, sailed for Sydney on December 10th. It has been splendid to have had her with us for so many months and to have had her help in our international work. Our best wishes go with her for renewed success in her work in New South Wales. She sailed from Liverpool which enabled her to address members of the Merseyside Branch on the eve of her departure. We wish her and Dr. Daly *bon voyage.*

St. Joan's Christmas Sale gives all our members an opportunity to help which they do not fail to take. It also allows those close at hand a chance to meet one another. This year's occasion seemed more crowded and, if anything more happy than others of the same kind. The stallholders showed even more than their usual ingenuity in setting out their stalls and in beguiling money out of the several pockets into the communal bag. The Fair opened at twelve precisely when St. Joan's youngest grandchild, aged five months, made her first appearance with her brother, mother and grandmother, the latter being our chairman, Dr. Shattock. Our older O'Connor grandchildren did good business with the twopenny dips. We thank everyone who contributed to the success of the sale; those who sent gifts in cash or in kind; the various stallholders and helpers; the character-reader; all those who bought; all those who helped with refreshments, especially the able and indefatigable Miss Noreen Carr, who was our organiser in this respect and who produced delicious lunches and teas with the help of her team of workers. To date, the sale has realised £120.

On December 8th, Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the anniversary of the birth of the idea of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, St. Joan's Committee entertained Miss Challoner to dinner and the theatre and presented her with a watch from members of the Alliance as a token of appreciation of her ten years' chairmanship and a welcome home from South Africa.

On November 15th, the Assembly of the United Nations approved a resolution concerning the Social Advancement in Trust Territories and called for "the absolute prohibition of such uncivilised practices as child marriage in the Trust Territories where such practices exist."

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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Equal Remuneration

Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value is the fifth item on the Agenda of the thirty-third Session of the International Labour Conference to be held in Geneva next June.

Report V (1)* is the preliminary report prepared by the I.L.O. and sets out the law and practice in different countries. It includes a Questionnaire concerning the desirability of adopting a Convention or a Recommendation on Equal Pay; the Definition of Equal Pay; and the Scope and Methods of Application. Governments are asked to reply to this questionnaire by January 1st.

The present Report acknowledges that the primary motive for any demand on the part of men workers for equal pay was the protection of their wages, not simple justice; and that a similar motive lay behind the division into men's and women's jobs, thus "restricting the free choice of the individual and hampering a rational mobilisation of the labour supply. Equal treatment of men and women workers as regards remuneration would promote labour mobility in the interests of production." The principle of equal pay was embodied in the Constitution of the I.L.O. in 1919, it is included in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Many Governments have recognised it; seventeen countries embody it in their Constitution; in the United States it is an integral part of the programme of the Department of Labour. The United Kingdom's position is referred to as "a generally favourable attitude . . . qualified by reservations on account of temporary economic conditions." The Trade Unions favour the principle, and the employers "do not seem generally to challenge its validity" but the theory that less pay is equal pay has been put forward to excuse differential rates, on the grounds that the "over-all value" of women's work is less than that of men's. We all know the reasons—the Report itself gives most

* Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, (International Labour Office, Geneva. 3s. 6d.)

of the answers. In France in 1946 the employers argued that a ten per cent. differential was allowable as the women were performing lighter work, but the workers' representatives contended that "such qualities as dexterity, speed and precision should be rated as highly as sheer physical strength." In another connection the Report says that any assessment of the various elements in a particular job "must avoid depreciating the characteristics of work performed by women." Again, if women are less adaptable, less well trained, it is because "there are fewer training facilities for women than for men and those there are, largely prepare women for occupations which are traditionally women's" while "the experience of the recent war has shown that women are capable of equalling or even excelling men . . . even as skilled workers." The higher absenteeism and morbidity rate of women workers—which are used as arguments for differential rates—are "to a large extent due to the fact that many women workers have to carry out a two-fold task which . . . reduces their efficiency" while "it must be emphasised that social measures tending to reduce the difficulties which frequently confront women workers are, at the same time, features of current trends in social policy."

Family and maternity allowances are less and less a charge on the employer and more and more the concern of the State so that it seems an appropriate moment to emphasise the contention that marriage as such is not the business of the employer, and to press for maternity benefits to be treated as ordinary sickness benefits, leaving the woman to decide for herself, with the doctor who attends her, when she shall give up her job and for how long.

This is one point to impress on Governments. Another point is that legal and conventional restrictions on the employment of women, such as restrictions on overtime and night-work, reduce the value of women's work to the employer and make a demand for equal remuneration hard to main-

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tain. There seems still to be a tendency to tell women what work they should do, rather than to let them choose what they wish to do. While the primary object of vocational guidance, it is claimed, is "personal satisfaction and effective use of man-power resources" this guidance "can be used to encourage women to engage in pursuits suited to their aptitudes." In Poland a Committee has been set up to "study objectively the occupations which are suitable for women from a physiological point of view." In Czechoslovakia attention has been given to the problem of determining the occupations in which women's performance is satisfactory! On the other hand, Convention No. 88 of the I.L.O., 1948, concerning the organisation of the employment service, postulates equality of treatment—the placement of *men and women* in occupations for which they are suited. During the war it was relatively easy to achieve the "effective employment of women in what had hitherto been considered men's jobs. With the conclusion of the emergency there has been a tendency to resume customary attitudes."

Finally the Report notes the increasing tendency for the "establishment of objective standards for evaluating job content," and this practice has been suggested as a means of determining the relative value of men's and women's work in the same occupation. Evaluation of job content has, however, developed as a result of social, economic and technological trends for all workers. The General Council of the T.U.C. pointed out that although there are variations in working capacity as between men engaged on similar jobs, wage rates are not established on such individual considerations, while the Secretary of Labour in U.S.A., when speaking on the Equal Pay Bills, said: "I do not think it is possible . . . to determine whether or not work being turned out is of comparable quality. . . . If managements do not get the quality (or quantity) of work they want, they should have, and do have, the right of discharge."

Generally remuneration is based for men workers on the established rates for a particular job. This means that workers are considered as performing work of "equal value" if their performance is within the limits of tolerance set for a particular job. Remuneration must be interpreted as including "the various bonus and other allowances and seniority systems which are a part of the remuneration."

Whatever method of job evaluation is employed—and this is of supreme importance—it is surely desirable that the International Labour Conference should adopt International Regulations providing for the implementation of the principle of the rate for the job, irrespective of sex. Justice demands no less.

P. C. CHALLONER.

Ireland. The Roe Commission, which was appointed by the Government to consider and recommend Scales of Salaries and Pensions for National Teachers, recommended equal pay for women and single men. This has been conceded by the Government and is at least a step in the right direction.

The case for equal pay was made by Margaret Skinnider, Dublin, one of our members, who was one of the Teachers' representatives on the Commission.

Equal pay for women and single men is given in the Irish Civil Service, in the Electricity Supply Board, a semi-Government concern, and to County Council clerical officers.

* * *

Mrs. Josephine McNeill has been appointed Minister to Holland. She was a member of the Executive of Cumann mBan during the War of Independence in Ireland, and is Chairman of the Irish Country Women's Association, in which she takes a keen interest.

* * *

New Zealand. Mrs. Iriska Matiu Ratana, a Maori widow with six young children, is the first woman of her race ever to be elected to New Zealand's Parliament.

* * *

Puerto Rico. Mrs. Felisa Rincon de Gautier is the first woman Mayor of San Juan. She recently received the Pan American Medal from the Cuban Government for outstanding work in inter-American relations. She was present at Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, at the Armistice Day observance of the Catholic war veterans. Monsignor Griffiths welcomed Mrs. de Gautier on behalf of His Eminence Cardinal Spellman, saying that it was the first time a woman official had received a formal welcome to the Cathedral and that her visit gave "added courage to all of good will who labour so nobly and untiringly for social justice and for genuine liberty."

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Union of South Africa. We congratulate Mrs. McGrath, President of the Transvaal Section of St. Joan's Alliance, on her election as Mayor of Roodepoort.

* * *

U.S.A. Mrs. Edna Kelly became the first woman member of Congress from Brooklyn when she won a clear-cut victory as a Democrat. Mrs. Kelly graduated in History and Economics at Hunter College and has been Director of Research for the Democrats in the State Legislature in Albany for the last seven years.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES

For feminists, the most important debate recently has been that on the Married Women (Restraint upon Anticipation) Bill which was discussed in the House for a period of over six hours on November 7th. The Bill is a retrospective measure. Restraint upon Anticipation was a device used by testators before the Married Women's Property Act in 1882 to prevent property left to a married woman from being squandered by her husband. After 1882, when a wife's property no longer became automatically the property of her husband, the device was still commonly employed until 1935, when it was abolished by legislation in all subsequent settlements, but married women whose affairs were regulated by deeds prior to that date were still subject to the restraint and many suffered hardship in being unable to realise their assets.

The matter had first been raised by a Bill by which Lady Mountbatten wished to remove a restraint, but this personal Bill was withdrawn by leave in order to facilitate legislation to cover all cases.

The Attorney-General said that he had been canvassed on the matter by the National Union of Women Teachers and the Status of Women Committee. We are glad to remind ourselves that St. Joan's played a considerable part in initiating the action taken by the Status of Women Committee and by approaching the Lord Chancellor on the subject.

Mrs. Leah Manning, in the course of the debate, said she had not a clue to the legal meaning of the arguments advanced but, to her, it was a simple matter of principle. She had never heard from the Government Front Bench such passionate pleas for equality and only wished they could have been on a broader basis than the one thing they were discussing. If they had only been on Equal Pay, for instance, they would have been even more welcome!

Mr. Glanvil Hall, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, in winding up the debate, said that the difference between those who supported and those who opposed the Bill was confined to the question of the desirability or not of legislation in retrospect and of nullifying the desires of past testators. Few, if any, had upheld the restraint on anticipation as a matter of principle.

The Bill passed its second reading with 180 Ayes, 47 Noes.

Of the Catholic M.Ps. among the Ayes, we were glad to note the names of Mr. W. J. Edwards, Sir Patrick Hannon, Dr. H. B. Morgan, Mr. R. R. Stokes and the Rt. Hon. John Wheatley. Colonel O. E. Crosthwaite-Eyre and Mr. M. C. Hollis

were among the Noes. Eleven women voted for the Bill and none against.

On November 1st, Sir Stafford Cripps, in a written reply, said that he was prepared to sanction payment of rewards for information of offences against the Exchange Control Act. This caused some disquiet and was commented on in the Press and on November 10th Mr. Blackburn raised the question again, expressing indignation at the practice of paying informers, which conflicted with our sense of fairplay. He was supported by many others in the House.

On November 8th, Mr. Follick brought up the subject of Malta and its difficulties, which are chiefly due to overcrowding. He recalled the deep debt which we owe to Malta for her heroic resistance during the war and proposed a scheme of holiday cruises to the Island, in order to stimulate the native industries. Other speakers questioned the practicability of the idea and Mr. Lennox Boyd thought it did not get down to the basic problems with which Malta is faced. Other methods would have to be found to help her to stand on her own feet and he awaited the forthcoming White Paper on Malta with interest.

Mr. Dupleton on November 10th asked the President of the Board of Trade if he would take steps to increase the supply of babies' napkins in the home market, and Mr. Wilson replied that he was doing all he could in this direction. It is comforting to reflect that in the days before women's enfranchisement such a question, if it had been raised in the House at all, would have been greeted with nothing but laughter, but nowadays is treated with the respect it deserves.

On November 16th, Mr. Symonds asked about the position with regard to the Greek children abducted by the rebel forces during the Civil War. Mr. Bevin, in his reply, said that the United Kingdom had supported a resolution at the Political Committee of the United Nations Assembly, recommending that the International Red Cross should continue their efforts to arrange the return of these children. No children had, as yet, however, been returned and he considered it one of the scandals of the age.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies answered "Yes" to a question as to whether Makerere College would provide facilities for students of all racial origins, and whether equal opportunities would be afforded to Makerere graduates to proceed to further education in the United Kingdom.

Bills which received the Royal Assent included the Nurses Bill, the Nicking of Horses Bill, the Profits Tax Bill, the Marriage Bill, the Representation of the People Bill and the Iron and Steel Bill.

P. M. BRANDT.

Meeting for Miss Challoner

On November 28th Miss P. C. Challoner spoke to a gathering of the Women's Freedom League on her recent visit to South Africa. The meeting took place at the Minerva Club and Miss Marian Reeves was in the chair. She introduced Miss Challoner as a former Chairman of St. Joan's Alliance, a sister Society with which the Women's Freedom League works in close co-operation.

Miss Challoner declared that South Africa was a land of discriminations and described how the women of each race suffered from disabilities of race and sex. There were legal disabilities concerning women married under community of property which also affected non-South Africans marrying into the Union. Legacies left to married women go into the husband's banking account and the signature of the husband is needed for any simple business contract.

In Africa the manual work is done by "boys" and for this reason there are "native" quarters belonging to private houses and hotels. It is against the law to have husband and wife living together in these quarters and to have a child over five years of age living with its mother. The law is often broken in this respect and the women come up to visit their husbands who are living in the hotel quarters. Then there are the compounds which are built near the big mines or big works. The conditions here are quite good but there is unhealthy segregation of men, sometimes of many different tribes. The men have contracts for six months or so but often they go back to their own tribes diseased for life and mine-owners have to go further and further afield to find workers for the mines. There are also the locations which are municipal-owned and which are composed of small family houses. This is the nearest approach to family life which the Government allows to "native" workers. But they are built right outside the towns and there is often a ten-mile trek to work and then back again. Again the pay given to the men is so poor that often the wife is forced to work, and numbers of children are neglected for this cause. Every third child is infected with T.B. in one school, mainly due to lack of good food and over-crowding. Recently the grant for school meals has been reduced and owing to the inability of the "natives" to help there is not enough money to pay for feeding the school children properly. A further factor which adds to the picture of an unsatisfactory family life is that the men in the towns become sophisticated and detribalised, but the women often remain tribalised. "Girls" living in locations or working in the towns are often victims of rape.

A problem in Natal is the presence of an Indian community, subject to the same colour-bar regulations as the "native" community. Many of the women and men among these Indians are

extremely cultured, but they cannot even go to the same cinemas as white people. In the buses there are special seats for the non-Europeans, at concerts they have special seats in the gallery. In fact, non-Europeans are outside the pale as citizens; many jobs are closed to them; they are not allowed in European Trades Unions; there is always a feeling of embitteredness between the different sections of the population and this feeling is liable to break out on any and every occasion.

In answer to questions, Miss Challoner told the meeting of the gathering of seven Africans, seven Indians and seven Europeans to whom she had spoken of St. Joan's Alliance. This meeting disclosed the fact that the African women felt their position keenly and especially resented the laws which prevent them from being guardians of their own children. Miss Challoner admitted that segregation was increasing under the present Government but in Marianhill College, where the "natives" were trained to do all sorts of things, they were found to be very skilful. The country is crying out for development and could be helped to this development only if all sections of the community agreed to work together in amity and peace.

Miss Pearson, of the National Union of Women Teachers, expressed the thanks of the meeting to Miss Challoner for a most interesting talk and thanked Miss Reeves for kindly consenting to be the hostess of the meeting and for supplying a delicious supper.

Reviews

Marriage Training Courses (Y.C.W. Girls' Headquarters, 62, Offley Road, S.W.9. 1s.) with an introduction by H. E. Cardinal Griffin, will prove invaluable to those who undertake the difficult task of preparing young people for marriage. This pamphlet contains practical advice on every aspect of this task, organisation of courses and suggestions as to the most suitable way of imparting this instruction. It is particularly valuable to see with what clarity the dignity and equality of the two partners is shown to derive from Christian doctrine on the sanctity of marriage and its elevation to a Sacrament.

In the syllabus of proposed lectures there is an insistence on the study of psychological differences between the sexes which strikes one as a not very happy attempt to ease the path of the marriage partner who is ill-adapted to the special difficulties, duties and trials he or she may encounter later. Although extremes may differ in a way recognisable by all, in the average man and woman there is so much overlap of these "characteristics," and so much that can be attributed to nurture rather than to nature, that the lecturer may find

himself addressing a "type" which is not represented in his audience.

One might also ask if, in the present state of the world, it is fair or even charitable to suggest that men's actions are mainly dictated by reason. If we reserve intuition and actions dictated by the heart to woman, do we not deprive man of what the poet, the inventor, the reformer, and indeed most ordinary men prize so highly? These are only minor criticisms which do not seriously detract from the value of this excellent small publication, but which should perhaps be considered when its next edition is called for.

F. M. SHATTOCK, M.D., D.P.M.

The Heiress. A Play by Ruth and Augustus Goetz based on a novel by Henry James. (Rheinhardt and Evans. 7s. 6d.)

That this play should have run at the Haymarket for over one hundred and fifty performances is a sound tribute to the good taste of London playgoers.

The scene is laid in America in 1850. The chief part, which dominates the whole, is that of a woman, Catherine Sloper, only child of a physician of standing. Catherine is nearing thirty—almost middle-age at that time—and is already mistress of a comfortable fortune and will inherit a far larger one on her father's death. Her appearance is unattractive and she suffers from uncontrollable nervous shyness, especially in the presence of her father, who cannot forgive her for not resembling her beautiful, witty young mother, who died in giving her birth.

A handsome unscrupulous fortune-hunter, Morris Townsend, makes love to Catherine with such success that, in spite of her father's threat to disinherit her should she marry the man, she declares that she will elope with him and never see her father again or accept a penny from him. Morris leaves her, as she thinks, to get a carriage to take her away to be married. Instead he borrows the money to pay his passage to New Orleans, while Catherine, all ready to depart, waits for him in vain in the hall of her father's house.

The last act, with her father dead and Catherine now a great heiress, is a real triumph. Morris returns and tries to persuade Catherine that he really acted entirely in her interests and she lets him think he has succeeded. Once again he believes she is willing to go at once with him to be married, as soon as he can fetch a carriage, but when he returns and rings at the door she orders it to remain closed. Knocking at the door becomes louder and louder, cries of "Catherine" are heard, as she slowly leaves the room and the curtain falls.

The play is beautifully written. The illustrations are photographs of the stage production, starring Peggy Ashcroft and Ralph Richardson.

E.F.G.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Leonora De Alberti in "The Catholic Citizen,"
December 15th, 1924.

The militant movement did what years of patient and grinding toil failed to achieve: it brought the cry of "Votes for Women" not only to the ears of sheltered women in British homes, women who knew nothing of politics and cared less, but to the ears of women throughout the civilised world.

It was an amazing achievement. The campaign thenceforth became a sort of crusade. High and low, rich and poor, women of the professional class, factory hands, heard the call and responded to it. One never knew at what moment news would come that some friend or relation was rejoicing at having succeeded in getting into prison. The thrill of those early days is recaptured in Annie Kenney's book.

—*Memories of a Militant.*

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