

support of all women, and we hope that they will subscribe very liberally to their National Council to enable the Committee to extend in all directions the usefulness of its work.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year ending 30th September, 1897.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward, 30th September, 1896		104	17	7
„ Subscriptions		362	4	6
„ Donations		143	8	8
„ Sale of Literature—				
Pamphlets	£15 6 5			
Reports	60 0 4			
		75	6	9
		£685	17	6
EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
By Rent of Office, Cleaning, etc.	£83 14 2			
Less Refunded... ..	5 0 0			
		78	14	2
„ Salaries		234	4	2
„ Printing		148	14	5
„ Stationery		19	1	6
„ Postage	46 17 3			
Less Refunded	0 16 6			
		46	0	9
„ Travelling Expenses	29 7 10			
Less Refunded	11 1 2			
		18	6	8
„ Literature—				
Pamphlets purchased... ..		1	7	2
„ Subscription to “Stansfeld Trust”		3	11	0
		549	19	10
„ Cash at Bankers	135 13 1			
„ Petty Cash in hand	0 4 7			
		135	17	8
		£685	17	6

Examined, compared with the books and vouchers, and found correct.

M. HARRIS SMITH, *Auditor*
(Public Accountant).

Other motions of which notice had been received were then considered, Mrs. Fawcett proposing in a most eloquent speech, seconded by the Hon. Mrs. A. T. Lyttelton the following resolutions:—

The General Committee of the N.U.W.W. views with alarm the recent legislation dealing with Venereal Disease in the British Army in India, believing that it is likely to lead to the reimposition of the system known as the Contagious Diseases Acts, which were repealed, after prolonged discussion, by the House of Commons in 1886. The Committee urges that inquiry should be made into the following points:—

1. The causes of the admitted steady increase of Venereal Disease in the Army in India under the Acts and Circular Memoranda from 1865 to 1889, from 212 admissions per 1000 men to 480, as shown in the statistics and chart published recently by Lord George Hamilton's Departmental Committee, and of a similar increase in the Venereal Disease of the Army in England all the time the Acts were in operation, and until their repeal in 1886.

2. The causes of the decrease of venereal disease in

the army in England after the repeal of the Acts from 267 admissions per 1000 men in 1886, to 174 in 1895, but the absence of a corresponding decrease in the same period in the venereal disease of the Army in India.

3. The possibility of providing further occupation, and recreation for soldiers on foreign service, of suitably modifying their food, and of giving increased facilities for marriage.

The Committee protests against the very common assumption that prostitution is a necessary evil, and urges that the Government, by actively encouraging self-restraint and good moral conduct in the Army, should impress upon the soldiers that vice, and not only disease, is to be feared and avoided. In particular they would suggest that habitual immorality which incapacitates soldiers from service should be treated as a military offence, and they gladly note the recommendation of the Indian Government in their despatch of May 18th, 1897, recommending penal stoppage of pay for admission to hospital on account of venereal disease.

The demand for inquiry was carried by a large and enthusiastic majority.

Mrs. Sidney Webb proposed, and Mrs. Greenlees seconded the following resolution:—

“That in view of the fact that the Union invites the co-operation of ladies who are not Christians, the Executive Committee be requested to consider whether the item of ‘Prayers’ should not be omitted from the formal agenda of business at conference and committee meetings, suitable arrangements for private prayer continuing to be made by the Secretary, for those who desire it.”

In moving this, Mrs. Webb pointed out that when she joined the Union she had no idea that morning prayer was a necessary part of the day's procedure, and she felt that if this practice was to be continued she could not conscientiously take part in the proceedings. They must remember that in a large composite body such as theirs, there was bound to be a diversity of opinion. She was speaking on behalf of Jews, Catholics, Rationalists, and Agnostics. Many of these could not conscientiously take part in such a service.

After discussion Mrs. Webb's motion was lost, an amendment proposed by Miss Clifford, and seconded by Lady Battersea, that seats should be reserved for those who could not conscientiously join in prayer, being carried by a large majority.

The officers and executive committee were then elected for 1897-98. Mrs. Alfred Booth, Vice-President of the Union, and President of the Liverpool Local Union, was unanimously elected President, Mrs. Creighton having resigned the position after three years arduous work, in which she has performed her duties in the most just manner—winning for herself the sincere admiration of her co-workers—and the gratitude of women at large for her indisputable genius for organization and business—qualities still somewhat rare, or yet undeveloped—amongst women.

Mrs. Alfred Booth is an American by birth, and has all the esprit and moral courage, for which her charming countrywomen are renowned. Mrs. Booth has been a most active member of the Union for many years past, and her appointment was greeted with unmistakable pleasure by all the delegates present, and we have no doubt our American cousins will also appreciate her election as a graceful act of international courtesy.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)