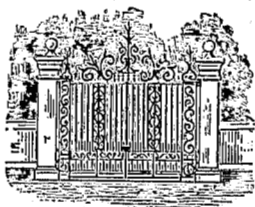


## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



The Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland was held at Morley Hall, George Street, Hanover Square on Tuesday last. The President, Mrs. A. T. Lyttelton, was in the chair in the morning, and Lady Laura

Ridding acted as her substitute during part of the afternoon session. There was an excellent attendance, and discussion through out the day was apt and eager.

The President, in her opening remarks, dwelt on the need for increased financial support if the Council was to avail itself to the full of all the opportunities which lay ready to hand. The Report of the year's work was then presented, and the Hon. Treasurer reported on the financial condition of the Union.

### RESOLUTIONS.

There were eight resolutions on the Agenda for the consideration of the Meeting. On behalf of the Executive Committee Mrs. Percy Bunting offered a vote of respectful sympathy with their Majesties the King and Queen on the loss they had sustained by the death of the Empress Frederic.

Lady Laura Ridding, also on behalf of the Executive Committee, proposed a resolution embodying two alterations in the Constitution.

Next came a group of three resolutions, the first one proposed by Miss Leigh Browne on behalf of the Women's Local Government Society, and recording the conviction of the Council that the co-operation of women with men is essential for the work of County and County Borough Councils.

Miss M. S. Kilgour following with a resolution dealing with the exclusion of women from London Borough Councils, and urged the passing into law of a Bill to remove the present disabilities of women.

The third resolution of this group urged the importance of the appointment of women as Police Matrons and watchers, so that women should no longer be left in charge of men at police stations and in infirmary wards.

The next resolution was proposed by Miss Marion G. Kennedy, and seconded by Lady Laura Ridding, and in its original form expressed the belief of the Council that women should be eligible to serve on all Local Education Authorities dealing with the education of girls. It was pointed out by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick that women were directly concerned in the education of boys, and that the resolution should rather run, dealing with education. This was supported by Mrs. Creighton, and the resolution amended in this sense.

A resolution on behalf of the National British Women's Temperance Association, on the strengthening of the Inebriates' Act, so that the habitual as well as the criminal inebriate might be touched, was offered by Mrs. Pearsall Smith.

She was followed by Mrs. Percy Bunting, who deplored the compromises in the "Children's Bill" dealing with their relations to public houses, which has now passed into an Act of Parliament.

Mrs. Kensington proposed that the qualifications of

candidates for election as President, Vice-President, or Members of the Executive should be sent to Representatives in order to enable them to vote intelligently.

The only resolution which was substantially altered was that with regard to legislation for midwives proposed by Mrs. Heywood Johnstone, seconded by Mrs. Boulnois, on behalf of the Association for the Compulsory Registration of Midwives. It ran as follows:—

"That this Council, having regard to the urgent need for legislation to control the practice of midwives, resolves to use all means in its power to obtain promises of Members of Parliament to ballot for the Bill next Session; and further to urge upon its local branches the importance of holding public and other meetings in support of the Bill."

It was proposed that, as time was limited, the resolution should be put to the meeting forthwith. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick pointed out that the question was an exceedingly important one, and it would not be fair to pass it undiscussed. What was the Bill referred to in this resolution? The last one dealt, not with the Registration, but the Licensing of Midwives. There was a vast difference between registration, and annual licensing with little or no powers of self-government.

Mrs. Creighton thought that the Resolution was rather vague. It would be better to invite the interest of Members of Parliament in the Bill. It was difficult for the meeting to support a Bill it could not discuss. Eventually the Resolution was amended as follows:—

"That this Council, having regard to the urgent need for legislation to control the practice of Midwives, resolves to use all means in its power to interest Members of Parliament in the matter, and further to urge upon its local Branches the importance of holding public and other meetings to call attention to the need for the supervision and education of midwives."

The next business was the reception of the Reports of the Sectional Committees, of the International Council of Women, and the announcement by Mrs. Lyttelton, the retiring President, of the unanimous election of Lady Battersea as her successor. No more acceptable President could have been appointed, for Lady Battersea has won all hearts by her personal charm, she is an exceptionally good speaker, and her acceptability in the highest, and her work in the lowest strata of society have placed her in the position of friend of all sections of the community. We regret the retirement of Mrs. Lyttelton, but we rejoice in the appointment of Lady Battersea as the best possible.

At the close of the meeting Mrs. Heywood Johnstone invited those interested to attend an informal meeting upon the Midwife Question in one of the Committee Rooms, where the subject was more fully talked out than was possible in the general meeting.

Mrs. Johnstone, who was supported by Mrs. Wallace Bruce and Dr. Humphreys, explained the objects of the Association for the Compulsory Registration of Midwives, and then invited questions from those present.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick inquired if the Bill was on the same lines as that of last year, which was for the licensing not the State Registration of Midwives. It appears that the licensing clause was inserted in the Bill on the suggestion of the General Medical Council. Miss Wilson, of the Midwives' Institute, and Miss Rosalind Paget both stated that this clause was not

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