

ing of licences conditional upon the gradual discontinuance of the employment of women attendants at the bars where intoxicating liquors are sold and of issuing notices to this effect."

She said that the Committee had conducted an inquiry into the work of barmaids, and they had come to the conclusion that the difficulties were so great that the only solution of the problem was the gradual discontinuance of the employment of barmaids in selling intoxicating liquor. The Glasgow magistrates had shown that licensing authorities had power under the present laws to make it a condition of the renewal of licences that there should be no employment of barmaids, but the licensing magistrates elsewhere were not likely to act in advance of public opinion. Of course, no woman need be a barmaid unless she liked, but many a young, "flighty" girl, attracted by the work and its excitement, went into the occupation, and once a girl had embarked upon it it was very difficult for her to find other employment.

Mother Emma seconded the motion.

Lady Frances Balfour said that while none of them would wish any woman to undertake the work of a barmaid, many of them felt a great deal of sympathy with what had been said elsewhere on behalf of women who had to earn their living as barmaids. Many hundreds of most respectable women earned their living in that way, and that they should be turned out in any large numbers would be a very serious grievance, and a very serious danger to the community. They ought to do nothing to close any profession which could be adopted honourably by women. It was a large question which ought not to be dealt with without full consideration.

Miss Edith Stafford moved an alternative resolution in favour of inquiry, through the branches of the Union, as to the conditions attending the employment of barmaids.

Miss Flora Stevenson, Edinburgh, who seconded, said she felt so strongly that a very great injustice might be done by undue interference with openings for the honest employment of women, that the Council would be unwise if it were at once to adopt a resolution which, even in a gradual way, would shut up one employment for women. Therefore she had pleasure in supporting Miss Stafford's resolution in favour of inquiry.

The alternative motion, sending the subject back for further inquiry, was adopted by forty votes to twenty-nine.

Mrs. Heywood Johnstone, seconded by Mrs. Percy Boulnois, proposed and carried:—

"That the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland will co-operate to the best of its power in assisting Mrs. Heywood Johnstone's inquiry into the training and supply of midwives for the poor throughout England and Wales." (See Midwives Act, 1902.)

It was also resolved, on the motion of Miss S. E. S. Mair, seconded by Miss Greenlees, and carried:—

"That it is eminently desirable that the law agents' examination be open to women."

Owing to lack of time, the Reports of Sectional Committees, which unfortunately included the Report of the International Council of Women, were taken as read. Let us hope that another year prominence may be given to International matters, and that the National Council of Women of Great Britain and

Ireland, which is affiliated to the International Council, may be encouraged to interest themselves in affairs beyond their somewhat restricted national limits by receiving the International Report as the first in order on the Agenda.

AN ITEM OF INTEREST.

A Congratulatory Address, couched in most sympathetic language, was available for signature, to be sent to Miss Frances Power Cobbe on her forthcoming eightieth birthday. Mrs. Bunting said that such an Address would "go straight to the heart" of this humane and noble woman, whose latter years had known much sorrow. We hope congratulations will pour in to the dumb animals' true and loving friend. We feel sure if they could write, the Address would cover reams of paper.

E. G. F.

A Book of the Week.

THE INTRUSIONS OF PEGGY.*

This book might almost be described as the apotheosis of the Bachelor Girl. Peggy Ryle is a bachelor girl of the most unmitigated order. One of those who bring home young men to supper at her rooms—near the Strand—at such hours as to attract the attention of policemen; and who, when the only sitting-room is being monopolised by a courting couple, unhesitatingly invites the other young man into her bed-room. It is curious and interesting to note the progress of freedom among us.

Peggy Ryle may be said to have hurled the very last rag of convention out of window. Mrs. Grundy is not only dead and buried, but forgotten; yet Peggy is a woman as much *sans reproche* as *sans peur*, and she is the darling of smart society. She is to be found habitually, so Mr. Hope tells us, at the kind of party where you are sure to meet Cabinet Ministers. We are inclined to think that she must be regarded rather as a prodigy than a specimen of any existing type; but doubtless the mere reviewer has much to learn.

This Peggy has a charm of her own. The glamour of her pure hedonism flings itself over life in general. To enjoy each moment as it flies, wholly careless of the future, is sole aim of her gay heart, and such is her temperament that she is not able so to enjoy life unless sure that her friends are enjoying it too. To dine at an expensive restaurant, in a pretty gown, at her own expense if she is flush of cash, at that of her male friends if she has chanced on a lean season, seems to be her ideal of the kind of good one extracts from life; mingled, be it understood, with the society of as witty and fascinating a group of triflers as even Mr. Hope has ever given us. They belong to the Twentieth Century. Their concern is no longer to shock; possibly there is no longer anyone left who can be shocked; these take their happy, Pagan way, untrammelled by home, relations, duties, beliefs, or any of life's heavy baggage.

"There are believed to be Bohemians still in Kensington and Chelsea," observed Tommy Trent. "They will think anything you please, but they won't dine out without their husbands."

This remark gives, perhaps as well as any in the book, the key to the attitude of Peggy's *entourage*.

* By Anthony Hope. Smith, Elder.

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