

A number of sectional reports were read and approved.

Miss Clifford, in reporting upon the International Congress of Women at Berlin, gave some interesting impressions of the gathering, which had done a great deal to promote international amity. She referred to the international action by women's organisations for the suppression of the white slave traffic, which she said was a disgrace to civilisation and an insult to women, and urged that the first necessary step was the abolition of the State regulation of vice.

*Miss Clifford Re-elected President.*

Miss Clifford was unanimously re-appointed President. Miss Wallbank Childers was elected hon. treasurer in place of Mrs. George Cadbury, resigned, and the following ladies were appointed on the Executive:—Mrs. H. Percy Boulnois, Mrs. Edwin Gray, Miss Olga Hertz, Miss Janes, Mrs. J. R. Macdonald, Miss Lily H. Montagu, and Mrs. H. J. Wilson.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH.

*The Power of the Vote.*

The business of the Council was continued on Thursday morning, when several resolutions were considered.

A bright and animated discussion took place on proposals affecting the usefulness of the Council. Mrs. Creighton and Mrs. S. A. Barnett brought forward a proposal urging the desirability of discontinuing the custom of passing resolutions on general subjects at the meetings of the Council. Mrs. Creighton urged the danger of resolutions being hastily snatched on controversial subjects and matters of public policy without due consideration. An amendment was put forward in favour of limiting the number of resolutions brought forward, with a view to obtaining the expression of opinion of the large majority, Mrs. Percy Bunting being the mover and Mrs. Philp the seconder. The amendment met with more general approval, and the resolution was strongly opposed. Miss Lucy Stables voiced the feelings of non-speakers, who could only exercise their votes, when she declared that if they discontinued passing resolutions they might as well shut their doors. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick considered that to deprive themselves of the power of the vote would be fatal to the progress and power of the Council. Opinions on important questions, such as were considered at the annual meeting, were not formed in the room, and surely responsible delegates had sufficient sense to consider questions of national importance, and to record their votes with intelligence. If the Council was to be national in its scope it must not be afraid to express an opinion.

The resolution was defeated by an overwhelming majority.

Some suggestions were then adopted for the better organisation of the business of the annual meeting.

*The late Miss Hopkins.*

Mrs. Percy Bunting moved a resolution recording admiration of the life and character of Miss Ellice Hopkins, recognising her devoted and self-denying work, which contributed to the quickening of the conscience of the country with regard to the care and legal protection of girls, as well as to the recognition of the necessity of an equal moral standard for both sexes, for which purpose she founded the White Cross League.

Mrs. Creighton seconded, and the motion was carried by the members standing.

*Finance.*

Mrs. Creighton proposed, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick seconded, that each Society affiliated to the Centre be asked, if possible, to subscribe £1 ls. to the Centre, 5s. being the minimum subscription. This was agreed to.

*Public Work of Women.*

Miss Leigh Browne (hon. sec. of the Women's Local Government Society) introduced the question of promoting among women the study of their duties as citizens, and particularly pressing upon the attention of women the duty and importance of making themselves acquainted with the actual working of the local government in the districts in which they dwell, and moved a resolution urging branches of the Union to use their influence locally to secure that systematic instruction in "citizens' duties" shall be given in the schools for girls under the education authorities.

Miss Mary Kilgour seconded, and after discussion the motion was carried, leaving out the part referring to teaching citizen duties in schools.

*Female Factory Inspectors.*

Miss Constance Smith (Christian Social Union) proposed, and Miss Sharples seconded:—"That the National Council of Women notes with satisfaction the promise of the Home Secretary to increase the number of Women Factory Inspectors during the coming year, and expresses its earnest hope that the increase will be of a substantial character." Miss Smith spoke of the success of the experiment of women factory inspectors; even the Government patted itself on the back. But in the present proportion the women inspectors could not do their work properly.

The motion was cordially agreed to.

*Help for Girls on the Continent.*

Lady Frances Balfour formally moved, on behalf of the Travellers' Aid Society:—"That women workers shall help in making known the safety offered by various societies to girls and young women seeking education and work on the Continent, and that they shall recommend especially that notices of these societies be placed in all suitable establishments to which girls are invited by those who work amongst them."

Miss Janes seconded, and the motion was carried.

*Police Courts for Juveniles.*

Miss N. Adler (Committee on Wage-Earning Children) moved:—"That in view of the large number of children who are at present brought before the magistrates, it is desirable that special Courts of Justice for Children be instituted." Miss Adler pointed out the great risk run by children who, having to appear before the magistrates, had to attend in the company of adult offenders and criminals, and to listen to the serious charges that were preferred against those adults. Some arrangement should be made by which juveniles should be kept apart from adults.

The resolution was carried *nem. con.*

*Women and Poor Law.*

Miss Catherine Wood (Women's Local Government Society) moved a resolution bringing before the Local Government Board the urgency of the need for the appointment of women as Poor Law inspectors, more especially of Poor Law schools and of the sick wards of county unions, and the importance of the appointment of women as inspectors of the female sides of asylums for lunatics and imbeciles. Miss Wood held that work

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