

during the last fifty years, as a comparative exhibition of women's work in past centuries would be of great educational value; an opportunity of affording such instruction had been lost at the Chicago Exhibition by omitting to show what had been done by women in the past. This should not occur again in the forthcoming Exhibition; for only by comparing the present with the past was it possible adequately to form an opinion of what women had done during the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

The resolution was then carried.

Lady Aberdeen, in moving "That Her Majesty the Queen and Empress be approached with a view to the gracious bestowal of her patronage on the proposed Exhibition," said about the advisability of obtaining such patronage there could not be two opinions; for the name of Her Majesty was and ever would be indissolubly associated with that of Progress. With regard to the date of the Exhibition, the year 1898 would perhaps be better than 1897, for in 1898 there had already been convened in London the first Meeting of the International Council of Women. Such a Council has been in existence some few years in the United States; indeed, it was these women who induced representatives of every country to gather together in Chicago. Similar Councils had been lately formed in Germany, France, Greece, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Italy, and are in process of formation elsewhere. Representatives of these countries are expected in London in 1898, and it would be of advantage if the proposed Exhibition were held then.

Mr. Wardle, who, living in the Midlands, is familiar with women's work in the Potteries, in seconding the resolution moved by Lady Aberdeen, declared that the proposed Exhibition would meet with the hearty support of all women engaged in the arts and crafts of the country. Women had done great things in the silk, embroidery, and pottery industries by bringing their artistic faculties and delicate manipulation into the market. Such an Exhibition would at once inform the public as to what English women workers can do, as to which, judging by their purchases in other countries, they seem woefully ignorant at present.

The resolution was then carried.

Miss Maitland moved "That a General Committee be formed of all persons interested in promoting the object of the Meeting." The roots of the present Movement, she ventured to think, would be found more than one hundred years ago, when steps were being taken to vindicate the place of women; giving rise to such questions being discussed as—"Why Women should not be taught the Alphabet," and later, in 1810, to Sydney Smith's celebrated question, "Why should a Woman of Forty be more ignorant than a Boy of Ten?" But it has remained for the "Victorian Era" to set the vast machinery of the Women Movement in motion. There is still, however, much to be done. Women of all ranks engaged in all kinds of occupations, industrial, social, philanthropic, educational, need something which will bring them together, and show them their responsibility one to another. Nothing could be more calculated to bring about so propitious a result as the proposed Exhibition.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Liberty and carried.

The meeting then closed with a vote of thanks to the Countess of Aberdeen for kindly presiding.

Science Notes.

THE CHEMISTRY OF CLEANING.

Professor Vivian Lewes, in a lecture on the chemistry of cleaning, has conveyed a great deal of useful information about such common objects as dirt, soap, etc. It is familiar to everyone, and especially to dwellers in towns, how quickly dust settles on every horizontal surface, and how a sunbeam is full of "motes" or particles of dust invisible, except in bright sunlight, so long as they are floating in the air. These particles of dust will be found, if collected, to consist partly of mineral and partly of organic substances, namely, siliceous and carbonaceous matters, hair, epidermis from the skin, pieces of vegetable fibre, pollen from various flowers, and spores of fungi and bacteria.

The heavier portions of the dust are found to contain ground-up siliceous matter, pulverised by traffic in the road; small particles of salt carried inland by winds from the sea, together with sulphate of soda, with other impurities of a local character. If a sample of dust be collected and ignited, the organic matter will be burnt away, and any ammonium salts volatilised, whilst the mineral portion will be acted upon; and in this way it has been shown that more than one-half of the suspended matters in the air are of organic origin, a large portion of this organic matter consisting of germs which are capable of setting up fermentation, disease and decay.

It is to Pasteur that we owe our knowledge of the action of these germs. He found that solutions of sugar, mixed with beer yeast and left exposed to the air, rapidly decomposed. If, however, the solution was kept in contact with air which had been previously heated, it would remain unchanged for months, but decomposition set in almost immediately if ordinary air was admitted. Then again, the white and blue moulds or mildews are vegetable growths, not spontaneous, as was once suggested, but developed from microscopic spores already present in the air. As they mature, they, in their turn, produce a new crop of spores to be disseminated, and so finally settle down on some appropriate resting place and produce more mould.

We pass over Professor Lewes's remarks on the dirt found on the human skin, as being too familiar to our readers to need repetition.

In soap we have a solvent for grease-bound particles of dirt such as occur on the skin. The metals, potassium and sodium, discovered by Sir Humphrey Davy, about the beginning of this century, are so ready to combine with oxygen that they immediately lose their metallic lustre when exposed to the air, and become coated with a white oxide. When this is dissolved in water, a powerful alkaline solution is obtained called caustic potash or caustic soda. This is an excellent solvent for grease, but its action is destructive to skin also, and therefore it is not used as a soap. If the oxide of potassium or sodium is united with carbon dioxide, a carbonate is produced, such as

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