

long run. Mrs. Amie Hicks said they had tried to form unions, but had come to the conclusion that the use of the word was injurious to the girls, and risked throwing them out of employment. But the girls' clubs might become their labour guilds, where they could combine for the study, not only of their own interests, but of those with whom they were working. An American lady, Miss Edith Howes, of Boston, said that in America they had found it far better to keep the club and the trade union separate, but the club, by teaching the girls self-control and self-sacrifice and the principles necessary for the success of a trades union, had fitted them for organisation or for any other of their political duties. It was best to have women of varied interests in each club, not those who were all leading the same lives. Other speakers followed, and a resolution was passed pledging the club workers present to instruct their girls in social and industrial questions.

A Conference was lately held at Oxford, at which it was proposed that the Women Lecturers' Association (a Society which aims at opening up a new field of work for educated women) should be further developed into a Women Lecturers' Institute, with a definite curriculum of education and instruction, a Board of Examiners, and with power to grant certificates. This is an excellent scheme on right lines, and we feel sure would be eminently successful. Organisation is the order of the day.

The conference to be held by the Froebel Society at the College of Preceptors on September 12 will not be limited to teachers. It will be open to all interested in the education of children. The subject to be discussed is "The Kindergarten Gifts and Occupations considered in themselves, and in their Relation to Manual Training and the Arts." This will be dealt with in four papers and three exhibits. No. 1.—"The Educational and Ethical Value of the K. G. Occupations." No. 2.—"The K. G. Occupations as a means of instruction, with Special Reference to the Teaching of Number." No. 3.—"The K. G. Occupation in Regard to their Artistic Value, with Special Reference to Clay Modelling." No. 4.—"The K. G. Occupations in their Relation to Manual Work." Mr. Claude G. Montefiore will preside. Discussion at the close of each paper is invited. Cards of admission may be obtained at the office of the Froebel Society, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, London.

We hear with great interest that the German women, Frau Von Gizycki and Frau Minna Cauer, members of the German National Council of Women, who lately visited London, were so deeply impressed with the work which British women are doing on co-operative lines, especially amongst the industrial classes, that since their return to the Fatherland they have initiated a Woman's Trades Union Council upon the lines of the excellent Association in England, which owes so much to the powerful sympathy and administrative ability of Mrs. Amie Hicks. So far the interests of the industrial classes in Germany have been excluded from representation in their National Council of Women, and it is the aim of Frau Von Gizycki that they should be included, upon the same terms of

equality as it is proposed that they shall enter the National Council of British Women. A most appreciative report of our suggested organisation appears in a recent issue of *Die Frauenbewegung*.

The approaching eightieth birthday of Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, of New York, founder of the first Women's Suffrage Society, is to be made the occasion of a great Reunion amongst American women. The ceremony will be organised by the National Council of Women of the United States, of which Mrs. Lowe Dickenson is the able president. An address of congratulation from British women is to be forwarded through Miss Frances Willard.

It has been said that the enormous extent to which child-labour is utilised in the United States, is the greatest reproach upon the Republic, and a proposition has been made that no boy or girl should be allowed to earn wages until he has passed his seventeenth birthday. "Year by year," says a New York inspector, "we have seen the demand increasing for smaller and smaller children, until it became a veritable robbery of the cradle to supply them." Over a million children under fifteen years of age are regular labourers, while the average age of labouring women is twenty-two.

Children's Day, as now observed by the Protestant churches of the United States, is a festival of quite recent origin. It seems to be a combination of the festival of May Day and Whitsuntide, its resemblance to the former being shown by the abundant use of floral decorations. May Day, as a secular festival, has been the especial delight of children. Whit Sunday, which occurs some time in May or June, and is one of the movable feasts, coming just fifty days after Easter Sunday, was, during the middle ages, one of the favourite holidays of the church. It was signalled by processions and by the performances of mysteries or plays founded upon the scripture occurrences. Whit Monday was a holiday, and was given up to dancing and sports. The famous Morris dances, or dances in masquerade, were a feature of Whit Monday sports.

Its connection with children, however, came from the custom adopted by both the Lutheran and Roman churches in Europe of holding their confirmation service on this day. It is the custom of both these churches to admit young people as members at an earlier age than that chosen by the Church of England or any other Protestant church, and it is no unusual sight in a European city to see whole troops of children, from six to ten years, dressed in white and garlanded with flowers going to take part in this service on Whit Sunday. With the Lutheran churches, at least, a special musical service and sermon, adapted to the children, were also a part of the day's ceremonies.

The appropriate connection of children and flowers has led a great number of churches in America to give up a Sunday during the month of roses to services specially suited to the comprehension of the little ones.

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