

Mrs. Carmichael Stopes remarked that the condition of affairs in the Royal British Nurses' Association was but one more phase of "the eternal woman question," and was another illustration of the incapacity of men to manage women's affairs. The question must be fought out on the same broad ground as that of Woman's Suffrage, that of justice to women.

The Resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Lady Stevenson proposed, and her suggestion was endorsed by those present, that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's speech should be published in pamphlet form for distribution.

Mrs. Fenwick acceded to this request.

General interest and sympathy were expressed in the question which was laid before the meeting, and suggestions with regard to holding public meetings were made. Many ladies connected with women's societies were of opinion that their societies would take an interest in the question and afford facilities for public meetings, and several offers of help in this respect were received.

Those present were unanimous in thinking that the question only required to be ventilated for a public inquiry into the affairs of the Association to be demanded by the public.

The meeting then terminated.

The *Woman's Signal* of course is "sound" on the vexed question of whether or no nurses are to be permitted a voice in the management of their own affairs. It truly remarks:—

"When men and women engage in any public work together, it is too often the case that all the official and leading positions are "grabbed" by the men, who feel that they have a prescriptive and traditional claim to all such distinction and leadership; and if some of the women interested then feel that the matter in hand is not being managed in the way that women would think best, and desire to reclaim a full share of influence and managing power, at once troubles arise. The American women have well learned this lesson, and keep a great many affairs and organisations under the exclusive management of women. The Royal British Nurses' Association is going through a painful struggle here for lack of the wisdom in the beginning to keep the management of a woman's society entirely in the hands of the women concerned. A number of doctors were at first asked to join in the management, with the result that when differences of opinion arose, the nurses were afraid to express their own views, for fear of offending the doctors from whom they receive their employment, and the comparatively few who were above this bread and butter fear, found themselves plunged into a series of unfortunate disputes both in the Society and in the law courts."

The Countess of Aberdeen has sent out invitations to a Conference, to be held at the Grosvenor Crescent Club and Woman's Institute, on Monday, July 19th, at 3.30 p.m., to discuss the formation of the National Council of Women for Great Britain. Lady Aberdeen, who is the President of the International Council of Women, to which the National Councils are affiliated, will speak on the subject. We have no doubt there will be an enthusiastic response to her invitation.

The Women's Club, which Mrs. Philipps is forming instead of reorganising the Pioneer Club in connection with the Women's Institute, will be opened informally in a few days. Its object is to furnish a social centre for women interested in literature, art, science, philanthropic work, and the social questions of the day. It will be called the Grosvenor Crescent Club, and will devote itself to all the purposes which have lately been described at the many meetings which Mrs. Philipps and other speakers have addressed. The house in which the Club and Institute are now established is a magnificent mansion at Hyde Park Corner. Later on there will be boating, bicycling, and other societies formed in connection with it. There are numerous bedrooms available for country members, and committee rooms for the many societies which are associating themselves with the work.

## Dramatic Notes.

### HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

THE bold experiment made by Mr. Beerbohm Tree in placing a new and splendidly-mounted piece entitled "The Silver Key," upon the boards of his magnificent theatre in the second week in July, has met with an immediate and unequivocal success. A representative house, crowded from floor to ceiling, received it on the opening night with enthusiastic and repeated applause. There is, indeed, everything presented which could catch the eye or please the ear. Adapted, as the piece is, from Alexandre Dumas' famous play, "Mlle. de Belle Isle," the adapter, no less a person than our own clever dramatist, Mr. Sydney Grundy, has admirably conveyed the best drift of the original, with the exception of some very sparse slips into commonplace phraseology, which are probably not unwarranted by the text of the well-known French author. In one important respect the adapter has acted very wisely; he has not attempted to Anglicise the drama, but has preserved its French spirit throughout with a force and piquancy which does him singular credit. Nor in relation to this—in such a play—material point, is Mr. Sydney Grundy left unsupported by his presentable interpreters. Mr. and Mrs. Beerbohm Tree and their entire cast have caught the *motif* and manner of the primary playwright to such an extent that we much doubt whether his native interpreters, who should be, and who, indeed, are, to such "manner born," could have better illustrated his intentions. Of one thing we are convinced, that no French company, however histrionically perfect they might be, could better convey the ideas and meaning of a thoroughly English play, if equally well adapted in their own language. The *naïveté* of Miss Evelyn Millard as the heroine, the subtlety of Mrs. Beerbohm Tree as the scheming, yet withal kind-hearted Marquise de Prie, the worldly, yet repentant levity of the Duc de Richelieu, as depicted by Mr. Beerbohm Tree himself, the straightforward viciousness of the Chevalier d'Aubigny, as judiciously placed in the hands of Mr. Lewis Waller, the grotesque humours of the Chevalier d'Aubray—the half marshal and half man—as entrusted to Mr. Lionel

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