

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.

Meetings of the Executive and of the Committee of Arrangements of the International Council of Women were held on the 5th and 6th inst. at the Women's Institute to make arrangements for the International Congress to be held in London in 1899.

Mrs. May Wright Sewall, the Vice-President, came across from America to preside, as it was impossible for Lady Aberdeen, the President, to leave Canada now that her time there is so short. There were present representatives of each of the five federated National Councils, namely, the United States, Canada, Germany, Sweden, and Great Britain, and of the newly-formed Council of Italy; Mademoiselle Vidart, Vice-President for Switzerland, was also there. Mrs. Cox, of Canada, represented the Countess of Aberdeen, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was invited to represent the Treasurer, the Baroness von Gripenberg, of Finland.

The first day's sessions were mainly occupied with the drawing up of the agenda for the Quinquennial meeting of the International Council and other routine business. The work of the second day was to make preparations for the Congress.

It was decided that the Congress should be opened in London with a social gathering on Monday, the 26th June, 1899; that it should sit for a week, or longer if necessary; that there should be only two sessions a day to allow for intercourse, sight-seeing, and rest; and that there should be sectional meetings on many topics of interest.

The National Union of Women Workers have offered to find hospitality for the accredited delegates, that is the President and two delegates from each National Council federated to, during or before June 1899; the fraternal delegates sent by invitation from other countries, and invited speakers and leaders of discussion; these last may be either men or women, belonging or not to National Councils, who shall be selected by the Sub-Committee of Arrangements of the International Council. It is hoped that there will also be many visitors from otherlands, besides numbers in our own country, who will find the programme of subjects and speakers an interesting one. It is too early yet to speak definitely of the scheme drawn up by the Committee of Arrangements, and of the writers of papers and leaders of discussion suggested, but it promises to be wide-reaching and all-embracing in its scope, and to touch on all views of women's life and work and interests—even on her amusements. This scheme will be worked into practical shape by the Sub-Committee entrusted with the carrying out of the details of the Congress.

A MEETING was held in the Jerusalem Chamber of Westminster Abbey, on Monday, upon the invitation of Mrs. Basil Wilberforce to consider what could be done to protect the poor match girls from the horrors of phossy jaw, and the agitation against the use of death-dealing yellow phosphorus in the manufacture of matches is to be energetically carried on. A committee has been appointed of the Duchess of Sutherland, the Duchess of Westminster, and the Countess of Portsmouth, with power to add to their number, to take further steps in the matter.

The Colonial Marriages (Deceased Wife's Sister) Bill was carried in the House of Lords this week by 129 to 46 votes—a majority of 83. The Prince of Wales voted in the majority. The case for the Bill (as explained by Lord Strathcona) seems to us to be irresistible. Its object is to legalise in the United Kingdom marriages lawfully contracted between a man and his deceased wife's sister in any of the British Colonies. It is intended to deal only with the marriages of legally domiciled residents, and, in order to remove any doubts there might be on that point, amendments were promised in Committee to make that absolutely clear. Marriage with a deceased wife's sister has been legalised in the Colonies with the active consent of the Crown, and with the tacit approval of the Government and of the Imperial Parliament; but, in spite of that fact, the children of such legal Colonial marriages are regarded in the United Kingdom as illegitimate, and cannot succeed to real property in this country. Could anything well be more anomalous?

The London School Board has spent much time in discussing the new and unfortunate scheme for the payment of teachers—which proposes to raise the salaries of male, and not of female teachers. During the debate upon the details of the scheme Mr. Bridgeman moved, and Mrs. Dibdin seconded, as an amendment:—"That this Board cannot approve of any alteration in the scale of salaries of teachers, which, while increasing the salaries of male teachers, gives no proportionate increase in those of the female teachers, and that the whole question be referred to the Finance Committee to report to the Board as to the cost of making such proportionate increase in the salaries of female teachers." Mr. Bridgeman said he supposed that the reason why they were giving this increase to men teachers only was that they wanted to attract a better stamp of teacher. But if they were dissatisfied with the men, they appeared to be satisfied with the women, possibly because they did not make so much outcry as the men. He asked the Board to adopt his amendment as a simple act of justice.

A CORRESPONDENT WRITES:—"I am taking my vacation in Colorado and went to the Biennial meetings of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, at Denver, Colorado, and as you are interested in what all women are doing, I send you some reports. The great interest to me was this year the question of industrialism was taken up strongly, in reference to women and children. Miss Claire de Graffenried presided over this section—she is employed in the Labor Bureau at Washington, studying labor questions—and this was the finest day of the convention. Strong papers were read, showing conditions throughout the country—the growing dangers of the employment of young children—the weakness of much labor legislation—so called—and the general helplessness of these unorganized classes of labor.

THE Federation numbers half-a-million women and 2,000 of them were at Denver. They are going to be a factor of incalculable power in our land, and especially as they take up practical living problems. They have pretty much dropped literary pursuits and mere self culture, everywhere in their clubs, and are going in hard for civics, municipal government, village improvement, public schools, preservation of beautiful and historic sites, and now last and best, for the industrial question."

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