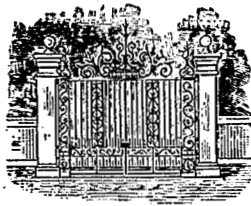


Outside the Gates.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



The Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Workers and Annual Meeting of its governing body—the National Council of Women—were held last week in Edinburgh, and were most successful and delightful meetings. The delegates coming from far and near had a most hospitable welcome, every arrangement being made for their comfort and convenience in the St. Cuthbert Halls, the papers presented were of a very high order, and the meetings well attended and enthusiastic. Lady Battersea (the President), who has been re-elected for a second term of office, said many wise things in her presidential address, and laid special stress on right conduct—which, she said, was the result of character, and was more essential to public work than either talent or even genius. Reverence for truth and a keen sense of honour must be appreciated by women if they were to adequately occupy new positions and bear with credit their wider responsibilities.

PAPERS AND DISCUSSIONS.

University Education for Women: Its Effects on Social and Intellectual Life. The Present Position of Women's Suffrage, Public House Trusts, Wage Earning Children, The Outlook for Women at Home and in the Colonies, The Permanent Care of the Feeble-minded, The Relations of Amusements to Life, Health, Education, and Popular Amusements for Working Girls, Rescue Work, and The Organisation of Branch Work were all presented by experts, and discussed with more or less relevance.

Tea parties were the order of the day, at which one met many delightful people, and, upon the invitation of the Countess of Moray and the Edinburgh Executive, a splendid reception was held in the new suite of magnificent rooms at the North British Station Hotel. Here the guests were welcomed by that most spirited music, the skirl of pipes, a fine band and sumptuous refreshments adding greatly to their enjoyment. Indeed, the inside of a week is a tantalising visit to the historic and beautiful city of Edinburgh, especially when duty keeps one within doors, as it is just tempting one all the time to forget the stern problems of the time, and in visiting its innumerable historic monuments, content oneself with shades of heroes and heroines of ages past, and the evidences still extant of their patriotism and appreciation of the beautiful—nowhere more apparent than in the capital of Scotland.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING.

Early on Thursday morning the delegates of the National Council of Women flocked in to secure good places, and a glimpse at the 'Agenda' convinced the most arduous worker that two sessions would never see it through. First there came a great crackling of enormous voting papers, during the balloting for new officers and the Executive Committee, and as usual, with very few exceptions, re-election was sought. Very little change was made in the official and executive list. Lady Battersea and Mrs. George Cadbury, the only

nominees as President and Treasurer, were unanimously re-elected.

Miss Janes, the Organising Secretary, read a very satisfactory report of the year's work, astonishing those present with the enormous amount of clerical labour accomplished during the year by the very small staff, and the Treasurer regretted a small deficit, met by yet another little bite at our very small maintenance fund, and, in spite of increased office work, reported a decrease in official salaries—a condition of affairs we members of the Union should deprecate rather than congratulate ourselves upon. The labourer is worthy of his hire, and, economise as we may, let us make sure that our very able officials are *well paid* for their work. We owe this as an example to all societies employing women's labour. Non-wage earners, of which our hon. officers and executive largely consist, do not always appreciate women's work at its highest monetary value. This by the way.

THE RESOLUTIONS.

REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN ON EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES.

Lady Laura Ridding, on behalf of the Committee for Securing the Presence of Women on Secondary Education Authorities, submitted the following resolution:—

"The National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland urges on the Government the insertion of a clause or clauses (in the Education Bill) securing that every local education committee under the Bill shall include one or more women; and reminds its members of the immediate importance of bringing before Members of Parliament the necessity for such provision if the presence of women on education committees is to be secured."

Miss Maitland, Oxford, who seconded, said that there was no doubt that women had lost something by the Education Bill, just as clergymen had lost something by it.

Mrs. Bunting said she had some pleasure in supporting the resolution, but she could not view it with any great enthusiasm. Women, however, had to be content with small mercies, and half a loaf was better than no bread. They must just make the best of it, and wait with patience until the country was more enlightened.

Mrs. Broadley Reid said it would be almost a disgrace if in Edinburgh they should allow the resolution to go out without an expression of regret that the Bill at present before the House deprived women of their right of being directly elected to educational authorities. She therefore moved as a preamble to the resolution the following:—

"That this Council desires to record its regret that the Education Bill now before the House proposes to deprive women of their present right to be elected to educational authorities in England."

She added that if the Government succeeded in depriving women of their rights south of the Border, they might next attempt to tamper with the rights of those north of the Border.

Mrs. Sheldon Amos, in seconding the preamble, said the present position of women in relation to educational authorities was due partly to their own fault. They ought to have numbered 3,000 instead of 300 on the School Boards during the past thirty years. It

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