

the small contributions sent up by the branches which would make them a vigorous institution.

The Reports of the Sectional Committees, Publications, Legislation, Industrial, Preventive and Rescue, Girls' Clubs, and the International were then received, each containing many interesting details.

#### WOMEN INSPECTORS.

On the following day the Council assembled at 10.30 a.m. to consider three resolutions accepted by the Executive Committee for discussion and to elect the honorary officers and Executive Committee.

The first business of interest was the moving by Miss Catherine J. Wood, on behalf of the Women's Local Government Society, the following resolution:—

"That this Council desires to bring before the Local Government Board the urgency of the need for the appointment by the Board of Women Inspectors for the sick wards and infirmaries of Poor Law Unions, especially outside London; and the advisability of the Board's further extending official inspection by Women to all residential institutions under Poor Law Guardians, and to those to which Guardians send inmates; and that this Council requests the Local Government Board to make representations to any Board of Guardians which has not yet appointed Inspectors to visit infants farmed out under the Infant Life Protection Act."

Miss Wood spoke forcibly, as she always does, and said that all who were acquainted with the condition of women and children in the workhouses in the country, especially in small unions, were fully aware of the need for more expert inspection on the part of the Local Government Board. Such inspection by women was opposed at headquarters, an opposition she could not understand.

Mrs. W. N. Shaw, who seconded the resolution, said the supervision of women in unions was essentially women's work. When it was left to men it was degrading both to the inmates and the inspector.

Mrs. Creighton pointed out that in 200 unions in the kingdom there were no women guardians on the Board, so that in these institutions the women and children were absolutely under the control of men.

Miss Campbell, of Ayr, said that in Scotland the woman inspector was all but unknown, but they were most anxious to have such inspectors in Poor Law work, especially as pauper nursing was still legal.

Many other convincing arguments were used by the speakers who followed, and in reply, Miss Wood said the Local Government Board had power to appoint such inspectors as the resolution required, and that there were too many dark places on the earth where woman's face did not shine, and it was time it did.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

#### SHOP SANITATION.

The second resolution was proposed by Miss Bondfield on behalf of the Industrial Sectional Committee:— "That it is desirable that further powers should be given to the sanitary authorities by legislation for regulating the sanitary conditions of sleeping apartments of shop assistants and the sanitary accommodation in shops." This resolution was seconded by Miss Caroline Ellis on behalf of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks. Both these ladies put their case with the convincing force which personal experience can alone inspire. An amendment to omit the inspection of the sleeping apartments was defeated by an overwhelming majority,

and the original resolution was carried with half a dozen dissentients and loud applause.

Both Miss Bondfield and Miss Ellis are to be congratulated upon their courage and eloquence, and the union to which they belong upon such able advocates.

#### HEALTH TEACHING IN SCHOOLS.

Mrs. Bassett (Birmingham Branch) moved: "That this Council desires to emphasise the need for the teaching of the simpler rules of health and temperance in elementary and secondary schools, and to endorse the petitions signed by nearly 15,000 members of the medical profession, and presented last year to Lord Londonderry." The mover said that in Birmingham schools and in other centres a good example was set by the teaching of hygiene, but the mistake was that it was taught only to girls, and not to boys as well. If it was true that the finest asset of a nation was a healthy manhood and womanhood, then they must realise that they could not begin too early to sow the seeds of right living. Mrs. A. H. Bright (Liverpool Branch), in seconding, observed that the last word had not been said in primary education as far as common sense was concerned. She thought it would be better if some of the subjects, which children could only touch the fringe of in their short school career, were swept away and health teaching substituted. After discussion the resolution was unanimously carried.

#### NEW OFFICERS.

The election of officers for the ensuing year was announced, including the appointment of Mrs. George Cadbury as President, an announcement which met with hearty applause.

## The Birmingham Conference.

The Conference convened by the National Union of Women Workers at Birmingham, and which was held last week, was largely devoted to the discussion of Parental Responsibility, Children, Emigration, How to Help the Destitute, and the Teaching of Health and Temperance, all subjects in which the majority of women, who are essentially philanthropic, take an active interest. The discussions, with the exception of that on Free Food, were all eminently amicable and practical, not to say academic, at which an attentive listener could sop up an immense amount of useful information. One frivolous person remarked: "It is like assimilating double-distilled *Times*; a dash of *Daily Mail* would certainly enliven the sessions." But our women workers are nothing if they are not in earnest, and if in consequence they are sometimes a little dull, their teaching is ever sound, and they must be forgiven.

Birmingham gave the delegates and visitors a very hearty welcome, and from all sides one heard of delightful hospitality. On the second day of the Conference the Lord and Lady Mayoress received the guests in the Council House, from which ingress to the fine Museum was possible, and here art lovers enjoyed a rare treat, the fine collections of porcelain, pictures, and other works of art being on view.

On Friday, at the service in the Cathedral, crowded to the gallery, Bishop Gore was the preacher, and every word of golden import was eagerly absorbed—the sin of sloth, the righteousness of labour, work not—eat not—the courage to do, and in the doing have strength to

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