

"The very best definition of the Woman's Movement that I have ever heard," said Mrs. Douglas Thornton, in opening her address, "is to obtain for women '*richer inward development with freer social activity.*'" She made this the basis of her subsequent remarks. Exceptionally gifted women will always come to the top, but the conditions under which women live in all countries are such as to prevent this "richer inward development." The position of women in non-Christian countries is definitely lower than in Christian lands. The lecturer briefly sketched the position of women in other countries; and the fact that she had travelled a good deal in the East, gave weight to her opinions and added special interest to the lecture.

In China women must always be in subjection. This was enjoined by Confucius, the founder of the popular religion in China. In Japan, conditions are similar. In India the ignorance in which women are kept, is not due so much to neglect, as to the fact that their education would lessen the power of men over them.

In Moslem lands, the laws affecting marriage are definitely degrading to women, *e.g.*, a man may divorce his wife as often as he likes, and for no definite reason. Mrs. Thornton gave a typical illustration of the trifling causes for divorce:—A man returning home, found his wife cleaning the room; to facilitate the operation, she had piled the chairs, &c., upon the top of each other, and had placed the baby on the top of all; the baby had fallen, and was slightly hurt. The mother was divorced! The lecturer reminded her hearers that the Woman's Movement was spreading all over the world, and it behoved us to think of *causes*. In varying degrees, the subjection of women in all countries is due to lack of education. Without it there can be no "richer inward development with freer social activity." Mrs. Thornton pointed out with emphasis two important factors in the freedom of women.

(1) *Women must have sufficient character to be free.*

(2) *Women must have suitable social environment.*

In non-Christian religions, where the position of women is so inferior, there is no motive force for character building. The women of Turkey gave valuable help in the recent revolution; they claimed thereupon their freedom from the harem system, but not knowing how to use freedom, their conduct was such that they had to be sent back to the shelter of the harem.

It was interesting to learn that the Christian ideal of one wife is, at the present time, attrac-

ting a good deal of attention and approval in countries where polygamy obtains.

In the missionary aspect of the Woman's Movement, it is necessary to think, not only of the woman herself, but of her social environment. The missionary nurse will have ample opportunities of using her influence in this direction. There are unfortunately great difficulties in getting native girls to train as nurses because of the system of very early marriages.

## NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

At the meeting of the Central Council, held at the beginning of the month, some important points in the future policy of the Union were decided upon.

### VOTING POWERS FOR ELECTION OF BRANCH COMMITTEES.

The following resolution was passed:—

That "The *full members and associate members* of a Branch shall elect their Branch Committee from amongst the *full members* of the Union in the area of their Branch, and the Committee so formed shall have power to co-opt *associate members and associates.*"

As the branch committees and their representatives on the Central Council are responsible for the governance of the Union, it will be seen that from henceforward the legislative power will lie in the hands of the fully-trained nurses, as only these are eligible for full membership; but at the same time the associate members will share the responsibility of choosing which of the full members are most fitted for this important work. Lay persons, whether Vice-Presidents or associates, have no vote in the choice of members of committees or in the governance of the Union unless they are for some special reason co-opted on to committees by the full members, and it is therefore hoped that all professional Vice-Presidents will join the Union as members, and take an active share in the legislative responsibility.

### REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Owing to the rapid growth of the Union, several points in the present constitution require revision, and it was decided to appoint a special sub-committee to consider and report upon it.

### ENDOWMENT FUND.

The offer of a legacy of £5,000 as an endowment fund on condition that £1,000 more was raised within five years is causing great efforts to be made to raise this latter sum. The subscriptions being so low, it is difficult to meet the ordinary expenditure, but the Council is very anxious not to lose the chance of so generous an offer, and it is hoped that every Branch will try to do something towards it.

### SCATTERED MEMBERS' BRANCH.

It has now been arranged to admit to membership nurses who are working in places where there

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