

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

The Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland will be held in the Victoria Rooms, Bristol, on Thursday, October 15th; on the Agenda of which there are down a large number of resolutions for discussion.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will propose on behalf of the Legislation Sectional Committee and Mrs. George Cadbury will second:—

"That the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland re-affirms its resolution passed on October 14th, 1908—'That it is desirable, both in the interests of the professional status of trained nurses and the public, who use their services, that provision should be made for their registration by the State; such registration to be under the supervision of a Central Board, upon which nurses shall have direct representation.'

"And further, that in view of the majority in favour of the first reading of the Nurses Registration Bill, 1914, the Prime Minister be respectfully urged to grant facilities for a similar Bill next year."

Another important resolution expresses its conviction that "the presence of suitable women on the Boards of Management of all hospitals, sanatoria, asylums, dispensaries and nursing institutions is evidently necessary in the interest of the patients, of the nurses, and of general efficiency."

Indignation and keen disappointment will be felt by thousands of women at the refusal of the House of Lords to support Clause I. of the Bishop of London's Criminal Law Amendment Act, which raised the age of consent on the part of a girl in a case of criminal assault to 18.

The Lord Chancellor moved to omit this clause and substitute another providing that any person over the age of 16 who commits an act of gross indecency with a girl of the age of 13 or over, and under the age of 16, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour and liable to imprisonment, but only on the evidence of one person, corroborated in some material particular.

The Bishop of London said he could not accept the amendment, and gave, amongst other grounds, the large number of associations (400) who have petitioned in favour of the original clause, and the fact that the new clause watered down his own proposal. These cases were seriously increasing. Mrs. Bramwell Booth reported that the Salvation Army had dealt with 316 girls under 16 who had been assaulted in twelve months, and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children recorded an average of 400 of similar age for a number of years.

Only 12 peers voted for the original clause—52 voting against it.

The Lord Chancellor's new clause was then agreed to without a division.

In reply to Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. Asquith said, in the House of Commons on Monday, that any funds available for grants to institutions of the nature of baby clinics and infant dispensaries whose primary object is to provide medical and surgical advice and treatment for infants and little children, will be administered by the Local Government Board. Grants to institutions of the nature of schools for mothers, the object of which is primarily educational, which provide training and instruction for mothers in the care and management of infants and little children, and which may include systematic classes, or home visiting, or infant consultations (the provision of specific medical and surgical advice and treatment, if any, being only incidental), will be administered by the Board of Education. Any cases of doubt or difficulty will be investigated by a Joint Committee of officers of the two Boards, which will include women medical officers.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"THE LOST TRIBES."*

One must be amused in a world that is too often sad, and Mr. Birmingham is the man to do it. Inconsequent, improbable, and anything else you like—"The Lost Tribes" is a very clever and distracting book. We all know it takes a clever man to be a fool.

But how convey in a short notice the elusive gaiety of its style, or to sum up the *raison d'être* of its production. "Druminawona," said Mrs. Dann, "is not the place where a real fashionable costumier would be likely to settle down. Wait till I get one of those London shops on the end of the cable. I'll fix you up." Druminawona was a remote village in Galway, and Mrs. Dann—"Sally May"—had come from New York to visit her relatives, the rector and his daughter Delia. Once there she conceived the idea of booming "Druminawona into European celebrity."

To the Roman priest and Protestant rector, who were excellent friends, she explained herself. "Druminawona is worth half a million any day if it's worked right."

"If it's lace making," said the priest, "or if it's cooking classes for the young girls—"

"You've not quite caught on yet, Father Roche," said Mrs. Dann; "my notion is, the name of the place is good for a big pile as soon as we put it on the market. As the home of the 'Ten Lost Tribes,' and the scene of a real mediæval miracle play."

This notion having fired Sally May's lively imagination, she proceeded to look for types and to shape out the scene of her play. The fusing of New York fashion with remote North Ireland is too delicious.

* By George A. Birmingham. Smith, Elder & Co., London.

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