

result of the experiences they had had. In Croydon there were two hundred such children in one Home.

Miss Rawlings, speaking from the audience, commended the late Mr. Stead's temerity in exposing the criminals in high places, and said England should imitate Australia in ostracising such men as had been convicted.

The Chairman followed with some telling remarks on the penalty children suffer, morally, mentally, and physically, from their parents neglecting to face facts and stamp out a crime, often from their own homes. The ranks of prostitution were often recruited from child victims; there were houses so congested that girls had no means of undressing and washing privately; there were schools and public baths where it was impossible to avoid infection. She told of the ordeals teachers had endured who complained; how the Councils refused responsibility because of offences occurring "not in school hours," how parents took "hush money" to hide offences—sometimes even condoning them for a price. She thanked Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss Mayo for attending and speaking to them on this burning evil.

It was proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, seconded by Miss Dempster, and carried, that a Mass Meeting be held in the Autumn on this subject, and that the Six Point Group be asked to arrange it.

The meeting was a sad one, but it was good to see there the Spirit of Womanhood preparing to fight for a Cause that cannot but appeal to women—the Cause of dear little "Innocents" unknown to us, but each one—as the old song puts it—"Somebody's Darling" . . . children playing in the sunshine like "Little Cuckoo Flower" one hour, and the next—who knows? Perhaps broken on the wheel of a Fate more cruel than Herod's Sword.

It was good to see our Nurses combining with their sisters, in political organisations, for an object worthy of their noble profession; to see them preparing to go out, with the light of Knowledge in their eyes and the power of Healing in their hands, to defend the Little Ones from those "travesties of manhood" unworthy to bear the name of man at all. And then—by their loving care to keep pure the path along which the future women of England may walk safely and fearlessly to an unstained womanhood. It was good to know that amongst the toil and pain of their work, these helpers will hear the Voice that speaks above the sordidness of their scenes of toiling: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

PIXIE H. BAIRD.

#### GENERAL COUNCIL.

A meeting of the General Council was held on Thursday, July 20th, at 5.30 p.m.

Mr. Paterson occupied the Chair, and after the Minutes were read the Financial Reports were placed before the meeting for consideration and adoption. They showed that the various funds were in a satisfactory condition. The Report of

the Executive Committee dealt chiefly with matters already reported in our official organ.

The following were elected Hon. Officers for the ensuing year:—Miss M. Heather Bigg, R.R.C., Sir James Crichton-Browne, LL.D., M.D., and Percival White, Esq., M.D., Vice-Chairmen; Herbert Paterson, Esq., C.B.E., F.R.C.S., and Mrs. Campbell Thomson, O.B.E., Hon. Secretaries; Kenneth Stewart, Esq., M.D., Hon. Treasurer. The following were elected Members of the Executive Committee: Andrew Currie, Esq., M.D., Sir Stanley Hewitt, M.D., J. McGregor Robertson, Esq., M.A., F.R.F.P.S., F.R.S.Edin., Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Breay, Miss Pearse, Miss Cattell, Miss Gilligan and Miss Liddiatt.

A letter was received from the architect, Mr. Ferrier, estimating the sum required for the proposed improvements and redecoration at the Settlement Home as being probably about £500. It was decided to ask Mr. Ferrier to take estimates for the work, and to instruct him that the amount to be expended on the alterations was not to exceed £500.

#### SETTLEMENT.

The Executive Committee are contemplating considerable decorations and improvements at the Settlement Home to meet which the sum of about £500 will be required. The Conjoint Committee of the Benevolent Funds have decided that money resulting from the Sale of Work in the autumn will go towards this amount, but other means will also be required to raise the money if the investments, from which the income for maintaining the Settlement are derived are not to be encroached upon. We shall be very grateful if our members will do their utmost during the next few months to collect gifts for the Sale, and also we shall be glad to receive from them suggestions as to other methods which might be adopted to reach the sum required for the proposed improvements. It is now twenty years since the freehold property at Clapton Square was bought by the Association, and since then there has scarcely been a room empty except for very short intervals between the departure of one nurse and the advent of another. Formerly it has been our habit to carry out internal decorations every three years but, naturally, at the end of twenty years there are structural and other improvements and repairs required, to bring the house thoroughly up to date. The improvements, which are now to be commenced, will be such as to cause it to be unnecessary to do much more to the house for many years to come, and to make it a delightful and beautiful home for those who are able at last to rest after years of strenuous work.

#### GIFTS TO THE CLUB.

We acknowledge with thanks the following gifts:—The Marchioness of Ailsa, flowers and chocolates; Mrs. Milne, flowers; Misses Boradman, Cassidy, Conway, Cutler, Denham, Donaldson, Goodrich, Kennedy, Lilliecrapp, Parsons, Pullinger and Swaby Smith, flowers; Miss Macvitie, eggs.

ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Corporation.

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