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## EDITORIAL.

### THE CALL OF THE CHILDREN.

A wide range of subjects was covered by the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland at the Annual Meeting and Conference held in Edinburgh from October 16th to October 22nd, when the special subject was "The Call of the Children."

By a happy coincidence the President of the National Council was a Scottish woman, Lady Frances Balfour, who, in her presidential address, said that they were met in the capital of Scotland, and as by accident they had a Scot in the chair, she must try for once to be impartial, and would only quote the words of one of Edinburgh's best loved sons. "She is a glorious creature," he had said as he looked at the Castle Rock, and women had special cause to reverence the Castle Rock because of that English woman who was the wife of a Scottish King. Margaret, Saint and Queen, was one of the earliest pioneers of the civilisation whose root was in Christianity. How few remembered that the Queensferry Road commemorated her ferry ways across the Forth, that the rudiments of commerce were fostered by her. Well might English and Scottish women meet together at her chapel, and Scottish citizens guard that shrine of ancient faith and works from the assaults of Picts and Scots and modern Gauls.

Resolutions were carried drawing attention to the inadequacy of the penalties imposed for criminal and indecent assaults upon young girls, calling upon the Government to pass the Guardianship, Maintenance, and Custody of Infants Bill; urging the Branches to study the housing question in their own locality; impressing upon the Board of Education the importance of encouraging open-air schools as a means of preventing children from contracting tubercu-

losis, or of arresting it in an early stage; emphasising the fact that it being now recognised that the work of the School Medical Service during the last fifteen years has resulted in the unquestioned betterment of the physical condition of the children in the public elementary schools of the country, and expressing the opinion that the halt which has been called during the last two or three years should now be reconsidered, and that for the sake of the physical well-being of future generations the Government should be urged to vote such sums as will enable the Board of Education and Local Education Authorities to provide extended facilities and to pursue a forward policy.

The need for the employment of women police in larger towns and seaports, the emigration of children, Pensions for Fatherless Children, and for careful consideration of the problem of Venereal Diseases in Children, was also emphasised.

The Council further adopted a Resolution urging the Board of Works to add to Nurse Cavell's statue her dying words: "Patriotism is not enough. I must have no bitterness or hatred in my heart."

The following Office-Bearers were elected:— Mrs. George Morgan (President), the Hon. Mrs. Franklin (Vice-President), Lady Trustram Eve (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon (Hon. Parliamentary Secretary), Miss E. M. Eaton (Hon. Editor).

Those—and they are many—who know and appreciate the disinterested public work of Councillor Beatrice Kent, S.R.N., will learn with pleasure of her election as one of the representatives on the Executive of affiliated societies.

The Conference was fortunate in having for its meeting-place the lovely city of Edinburgh, with its historic associations and hospitable traditions.

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