

WOMEN IN COUNCIL

Special No.

November, 1932

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REPORT
OF THE
COUNCIL MEETING AND
CONFERENCE

HELD IN NORWICH, OCTOBER 3—7, 1932.



PAMPHLET

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WOMEN IN COUNCIL

NOVEMBER, 1932.

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1932-33.

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ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING AND CONFERENCE.

ST. ANDREW'S HALL, NORWICH.

October 3rd—7th, 1932.

OPENING MEETING.

ADDRESSES OF WELCOME.

THE LORD MAYOR OF NORWICH (Sir Ernest White), in welcoming the Representatives at the Council Meeting on October 4th, said that it had not been his privilege—or should he say ordeal—during his year of office to face such a large audience of women, many holding important positions, and coming from distant parts of the country, from Scotland and Wales, to attend the Conference. As the civic head of Norwich he desired to express, on behalf of the citizens, their great pleasure that the National Council of Women had again chosen Norwich as the place to hold their Conference. And on his own behalf and that of the Lady Mayoress, he wished to say how very delighted they both were that this important event had occurred during their year of Office.

He liked to think that the Council had chosen Norwich because they had heard so much about that beautiful old city, its amenities and various attractions. Perhaps another reason was that the Norfolk and Norwich Branch was the third largest in numbers, and was so alive and active with such energetic and able officials: Miss Wise, Miss Margaret Hill, and many others.

As a citizen of Norwich who was very proud of his native city, he proposed to say something about some of its most famous buildings. St. Andrew's Hall itself was a historic hall which had been the scene of many great meetings and events. It and the adjoining Blackfriars Hall had been erected by the Dominican or Black Friars in the early 15th century, on the site of a smaller convent also built by the Black Friars about 1307, which had been destroyed by fire. St. Andrew's Hall was the nave and Blackfriars Hall the choir of the Church of the convent, and they were considered to be some of the best remaining examples of Friars'

architecture in the country. At the Dissolution of the Monasteries the buildings were purchased by the City for the sum of £81—a cheap bargain. St. Andrew's Hall became the Common Hall and was used for all civic purposes. Blackfriars' Hall was leased in 1619 to the Dutch community which had settled in Norwich, and was long known as the Dutch Church. Now both Halls were used by the Corporation.

After referring to other places of interest—the beautiful Cathedral, the Castle and its fine Museum, the large number of old churches for which Norwich was famous—the Lord Mayor said that the city, whilst boasting of its antiquity, could also boast of modern developments. He thought the charm of Norwich lay in its blending of the old and new—churches and factories. In recent years Norwich had made many important developments in housing estates, parks and gardens; and in Social Service the city was well up to date. But apart from its buildings and institutions, the City was also proud of the great men and women who had been born and lived in Norwich. It could claim many distinguished women, among them Elizabeth Fry, Harriet Martineau, Edith Cavell; and at the present time there were many women who were carrying on the tradition of great social work and amongst them was Miss Clarkson, his predecessor in office.

He was sure that the citizens of Norwich recognised the great work the National Council of Women had already accomplished. The equality of citizenship which women possessed at the present time was, to a considerable extent, due to the work of the N.C.W., which had promoted the political and social education of women. He would like to throw out one suggestion—“Now that equality of citizenship has been obtained, why not a National Council for Women and Men?”

In conclusion, the Lord Mayor wished the Conference continued success in its efforts to promote social reform. He hoped the delegates would enjoy their stay in Norwich and carry away with them many happy recollections.

MISS G. M. WISE, J.P., Chairman of the Norwich Branch, welcomed the Representatives on behalf of the Branch, saying they were proud to receive a second visit from the Conference. The first one had been in 1898, under the Presidency of Mrs. Alfred Booth. It was not infrequently remarked that those who left Norwich often returned to it, and the Conference was no exception to what was now almost a rule.

There were other grounds, said Miss Wise, for thinking that Norwich was a particularly suitable place for the holding of such conferences. Down the centuries part of the company of famous

women in which Norfolk and Norwich had a share had dwelt in the city: Lady Juliana, in the 14th century, a spiritual visionary; Elizabeth Fry, a practical pioneer and social worker; Edith Cavell, a heroic victim of the war. It would not be too fanciful to feel that the mantle of these famous women might fall upon some of those present in that wonderful Conference assembly. In the name of the Branch she wished the delegates welcome with all her heart, and hoped that at the end of the week they would not feel surprised that people who once came to Norwich felt they had to return.

MRS. COLMAN, J.P., President of the Conference Committee, offered a warm welcome on behalf of the Local Committees. She explained with regret why the visit to Sandringham Gardens, which had been specially desired by a good many delegates, could not be arranged. She was sure everyone would understand the need for periods of rest and quiet for the King when he came to Norfolk. As Sandringham was not possible, they were very grateful to Lord Leicester who had promised to open his house at Holkham. In these days of hurry and rush and mushroom building, it was interesting to visit a great house which had taken 25 years in building and to see the tapestry and pictures of one of the stately homes of England.

In conclusion Mrs. Colman thanked the Conference for giving the offertory at the Cathedral Special Service to the Queen's Purse Fund. Norwich had been working very hard for the last two years to collect funds to build a most necessary Home for nurses at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. The money was now raised, and the Queen had promised to come and open the Home.

THE PRESIDENT, Lady Trustram Eve, after proposing a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor, then gave her presidential address to the delegates.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

This ancient City has many traditions, notably ecclesiastical, but also in many other ways, historical and social.

We have to deplore the death of one of our former Presidents, Lady Battersea, closely connected with this district, who was widely known for her outstanding personality and work for all good causes. It is very sad for many of us that her death prevents her being one of those who welcome us here.

We have memories here of Harriet Martineau and Elizabeth Fry; even in those early days, with so many less opportunities than we have now, it was possible for a woman to be very outstanding and to do marvellous work, and Harriet Martineau's writings produced 90 years ago had a very marvellous effect and influence on all the many fields explored by her with regard to technical education and relations of employer and employed.

Even better known is the name of Elizabeth Fry, whose work for Prison Reform is still not behind our present ideas of what should be wished for our criminal classes.

As President I am delighted to see so many delegates here to-day, as I always feel that the Branches, especially those who are far away from London, find it difficult to be in touch with all that is done by the Executive, and are often not sufficiently seized with the arguments for or against a certain line of action. At our Council year by year those who come "renew their strength" and go back knowing better why certain resolutions are moved and the arguments for and against.

The National Council of Women met in Norwich in 1898, 34 years ago, and in thinking over what it is best to say to you to-day, I have found that the President in those days, Mrs. Booth, with whom I would couple the name of the Secretary of those days, Mrs. Nance, started with some words of Seneca, which are still so appropriate that I feel I cannot do better than quote them here:

"One wise man helps another even in the exercise of his virtues, and the one has need of the other both for conversation and counsel, for they kindle a mutual emulation in good offices. We are not so perfect yet but that many good things still remain to be found out, which will give us the reciprocal advantage of instructing one another."

and we must see in studying these words that our idea is to go on to better and better things and to be always in touch with what is in the future.

The foundation principle on which we found our Society is "To promote sympathy of thought and purpose among the women of Great Britain." This is the key-note of all our activities and gives us such a wide basis on which to found our work.

We have no narrowing limits of political or religious grounds, but we endeavour to promote sympathy between people of varying opinions, various sympathies and various purposes. We include within the bounds of our Council women of almost every opinion that it is possible to hold, and we endeavour out of these varying and in some ways contentious interests to form something which

will be a stand-point for good, from which we endeavour to adapt ourselves to the times in which we live with their necessary changes. Our conditions change rapidly in these days as all things must change, and it is good that they should change with the varying conditions of our country, but I hope we shall never lose the sense that it is not by fighting for a majority on something we are specially interested in that we advance our cause, but on the wider basis of mutual co-operation in what is desirable for the country at large.

We have within our bounds 135 Affiliated Societies, all of which stand for some particular object for which they specially work, and for which they are formed. The Council of Women should help all these objects without losing sight of the sympathy we give to everything which is helpful, and without narrowing our view necessarily to what has always been done. Women as a whole are very keen on their work and what specially comes within their own purview, but I think we shall lose a great deal of value if we do not remember this first object of ours, and while differing in detail agree in principle with the point of view which was drawn up with a great deal of thought and wisdom in the beginning of our days.

This is our 39th Conference, and we have met in these years in almost every part of England, and very largely in Scotland also. In addition to our activities in this country, we are linked with the National Councils of Women in other countries through the International Council of Women, and as it is impossible in these days to do really valuable work without co-ordination with other countries, I hope we shall more and more consider that we are part of an even larger whole than our National Council represents. We have now 41 Councils, some of these as far away as South America, India, China, and we find in this way that our work is widened and our sympathies enlarged; and certainly in 1932 it would not be possible for any body of women to limit their work within the borders of their own land. There are so many subjects which one country cannot settle by itself, i.e., The Nationality of Married Women, White Slave Traffic, the Drug Question and even the Cinema Question. These are all subjects which must be considered in co-operation with other lands and other nationalities, and it is in consultation with these that we see the way to carry out some work which could not have a successful issue if limited to one nationality.

I am not going to take up your time to-day by detailing the work, although this is various and interesting, but our General Secretary gives a report on what has actually been done this year and I think it is better that the President should not also take the

same line of country. We have tried to do many things, and we have succeeded in helping to do valuable work in different directions. Our Sectional Committees are many and varied, and each one has its own line and is in many ways a sub-committee formed of people who have special knowledge of this special branch of work.

I would remind you of our procedure, which is that Resolutions are sent up from Branches and Affiliated Societies, and out of all these resolutions sent up, the Executive, the Branches and the Affiliated Societies vote for the 12 which are considered of outstanding importance. Thus you will see that we have a very democratic way of managing our business. It is always what is wished by the greater number that gets on the Programme for the Conference, and although these may not always be as we individuals would wish, again it is the wish of the majority that must prevail.

We have 81 Branches and I have as President gone to speak at many of them. In this connection I should like to say I am always willing and available to speak at Branches, if they will give me a long notice and a choice of dates, and I hope to know more and more of the Branches in the future in this way. I have been struck by the difference in the subjects which interest the Branches. Sometimes this is a more or less local matter connected with the part of the country in which the Branch is situated, but also it is often work which appeals to the women who belong to that special Branch, and is done by them because of their great interest, and because they have special knowledge of this particular sort of work. For example some Branches—perhaps I might mention here as examples, without being invidious, Great Malvern and Bromley—have devoted their attention to the Housing question, which has been of great importance, perhaps outstanding importance, to England and Scotland since the War. These Branches have succeeded in getting something actually done and have flats and houses at small rents, which not only provide housing for the educated workers of small means, but have actually made the scheme financially sound, so that what is paid covers the expenses. This is a great example of what can be done by women, as so many schemes which have been promoted since the war have not been economically sound, and in this way fail of their object.

I think it is known to everyone here that Bills before the House are reported on to the Executive by our Parliamentary Secretary and are then referred to the expert committee concerned, to study and produce amendments if necessary. This has been very noticeable in the Children's Bill, now the Children's Act. Our Legislation and Public Services and Public Health

Committees sent in amendments to the Bill and succeeded in many cases in getting anything which was not considered helpful withdrawn or altered.

One noticeable piece of work has been the preparation of a Juries Bill, which is being promoted by the National Council of Women, and which Sir John Withers, M. P., has assisted in drafting and putting into form. The National Council of Women feels that more women—especially married women—are needed on Juries and that the qualifications of persons eligible to serve need altering in various ways. If this can be successfully carried through, it will be a good piece of work to the credit of the National Council.

I would say that, although details of work done are eminently satisfactory and carry great weight in the country at large, in my opinion it is the fact of a body of women in so many parts of England considering all kinds of work, being in sympathy altogether, and forming a platform for every kind of opinion, that gives us our advantage over many bodies, whose work is specific and only concerned with one special phase of life. The fact that we are so diverse gives an opportunity for every sort of woman of every sort of class to join us, and we get valuable help from this variety.

We have always interested ourselves very much, through our International Committee, in the question of Disarmament and Peace, and it is interesting to see in the speech of Mrs. Booth in 1898 that there was then a foreshadowing, spoken of only as a possible looking forward, that one individual had "surprised the world by a manifesto calling upon the nations to consider the possibility of a partial disarmament," and that this must not be looked upon as a mere ideal only, but that we should "in thought at least lay hold of those ideas of universal peace and brotherhood which should be the Ultima Thule of the Christian world."

We have lived to see this become a practical proposition after the terrible holocaust of the world war, and we have the satisfaction of knowing now that as women we have a definite place in our own government by our votes, and have an equal share with our men folk in advancing any principle to which we adhere.

In 1898 women had great influence, they have always had great influence, but it was indirect; now we have a direct way of showing our influence and our power, and we can use it in a more powerful way than in 1898. The responsibility of power is still with us and perhaps more definitely defined. We must stand for a sane opinion on all public matters, remembering that, although we march forward and must march forward or die, it must be a slow, orderly progression, not rushing wildly here and there, but making quite sure that the great body of the women of the country is be-

hind us. The leaders must be with the main body, not with the scouting parties, who may perhaps rush off for expeditions on their own. No really important matter has ever been won by a few forward spirits, although we have great respect and admiration for pioneers. These perhaps run more risks, but they are also apt to be entirely overwhelmed by those who do not see with them. A mighty body is a slow moving body, and has to see that there is a wide road on which it moves forward. The winding paths which small bodies of extremists may traverse, which often end in a cul-de-sac, are not for large bodies to follow, and I think if we look at the resolutions passed year by year by the Council and also by our Executive, we shall see that on the whole both these bodies, composed of representatives of our Branches and Affiliated Societies, have recognised this and seen to it that our path has been one which the majority of women of the country can follow.

It is impossible to meet together in such a large and representative body as ours without mentioning Ottawa.

We have now a National Government composed of all parties, who went to Ottawa from the nation, and not from one section of it, and faced very difficult and almost insuperable tasks. The result has pleased some and disappointed others, but at least we can agree that there was a great spirit of sympathy and co-operation amongst the Delegates of the Commonwealth, and that on the whole petty difficulties were sunk for the good of all.

It is impossible to see yet where this will lead us, and there are sharp differences of opinion as to the ultimate result. Again I would go back to the words of Seneca spoken to us from the old world so many hundred years ago, that "We are not so perfect yet but that many good things still remain to be found out, which will give us the reciprocal advantage of instructing one another."

I must conclude by hoping that our Council will take these words to heart and see the future in hopefulness, though not in certainty that one way or the other will accomplish what we want.

37th ANNUAL REPORT.

By the General Secretary, MISS NORAH GREEN.

For many voluntary Societies the past year has been a difficult one, and the N.C.W. has proved no exception to the rule, yet in spite of this the average attendance at the nine meetings of the Executive Committee has been 67, an increase upon last year. The Committee now meets at 11 o'clock, and is preceded by a meeting of the Hon. Officers. It is a great disappointment that the special

concession of reduced railway fares granted during the earlier part of the year cannot be continued, the necessary number of 100 members using the vouchers during Committee week not having been reached.

Among the losses sustained by the Council, we regret to have to report the death of Lady Battersea, its President in 1902-3. The special Service in London was attended by the President and General Secretary, and a small contribution sent to the memorial in connection with the Children's Ward in the new Cromer Hospital.

The Executive Committee has offered its sincere congratulations to Miss Blackie, who was awarded the O.B.E. for her social work in Glasgow, and to Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, who was cordially welcomed back after her severe illness, on the award of the Lyell Medal by the Geological Society of London.

It is sometimes said that what is debated one year by the N.C.W. often comes into operation the next, and a brief survey of the resolutions passed last year in Aberdeen seems to prove that there is some truth in this statement. For example, with reference to the **Cinema**, we urged the appointment of a Consultative Committee to promote closer co-operation between the British Board of Film Censors and the Cinema Licensing Authorities, and this body has now been set up. We regret, however, that in spite of repeated efforts, there is still no woman serving upon it. We also urged the adoption by the local Licensing Authorities of the Model Rules issued by the Home Office, and as the result of a special enquiry into film censorship undertaken by our Cinema Committee (Report, price 3d.) it appears that the majority of the Licensing Authorities have now adopted these rules. In response to a resolution urging that no films should be certified which depicted the sufferings of Animals, the Board replied that they will continue their practice of "not certifying any films in which there is cruelty to animals or undue restraint amounting to cruelty," although they must be allowed to portray natural history subjects as described in school books. The report recently issued by the Commission on Educational and Cultural Films (of which Miss Fox, the Vice-Chairman of our Cinema Committee was a member) has been read with interest, and the request for a Government grant towards the setting up of a National Film Institute supported. Throughout the year we have co-operated with the Mothers' Union and the Public Morality Council (having issued with them a joint leaflet on "The Control of the Cinema in England and Wales"), and in response to the request of the Women's Institutes that the N.C.W. should consider co-operation with their Federation and with certain other Societies,

a successful meeting has been held to discuss possible combined action, and an *ad hoc* Committee set up for this purpose.

Then, again, it is very encouraging to turn to the resolution on **Women Police**. This asked that Regulations for Police Women might be drafted and submitted to a Police Council, on which women should have fair representation. Regulations for Police Women in England and Wales were published a few months later, in October 1931, and Miss Peto was appointed as the first woman to serve on the Police Council called to consider them. The Regulations state that the number of Police Women must be sufficient to carry out the duties assigned to them, and while the duties are satisfactory, we regret that they have not yet been made compulsory. In considering suggestions for economy, the Police Federation recommended the suspension of the recruiting of women police in the Metropolis, but the Executive Committee pointed out that while outrages on women and girls were on the increase, this would appear to be a very false economy. On March 17th a meeting was held in the House of Commons, under the Chairmanship of Lady Iveagh, with a view to the formation of a Parliamentary Group, following which "A Reasoned Statement on Women Police" was drawn up by Lady Iveagh and Lady Astor and circulated to interested Members of Parliament by Mr. Nicholson, M.P. (Price 6d.). The statement by the Home Secretary that Women Police were of very great utility in dealing with offences against young girls, many more such offences now being reported, that Miss Peto had been given the rank of Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police Force, and that when finances improved the women police service in the Metropolitan area would be further expanded, was noted with much satisfaction.

Another resolution urged the appointment of a Royal Commission to enquire into the causes of **Mental Deficiency** and into any measures, including segregation and sterilization, by which its incidence might be diminished. This Commission has now been appointed by the Minister of Health, with one woman, Miss Ruth Darwin, serving upon it. During the past year, our Moral Welfare and Public Health Committees have held joint meetings, when the question of the sterilization of the mentally unfit has been considered, and addresses have been given by leading experts who dealt with the subject from the moral, scientific and practical standpoint.

A valuable Memorandum has been drawn up by the Committees embodying the information laid before them. (Price 3d.).

A resolution on **Disarmament** expressed the hope that the Disarmament Conference would result in immediate reductions of

the Army, Navy and Air Forces of the world, and the proceedings of the Conference have been most closely followed by our Peace and International Committee, while we have kept in touch with the Disarmament Committee representing 14 Women's International Organisations in Geneva. The appointments of Mrs. Corbett Ashby as a member of the British delegation, and of Miss Winifred Kydd, President of the N.C.W. in Canada, as a member of the Canadian delegation to the Disarmament Conference, have been welcomed. The Committee has been fortunate in having addresses from Mr. G. A. Spender on National Debts and Reparations, and from Sir George Paish on the Issues at the Lausanne Conference. The General Secretary continues to represent the N.C.W. on the Women's Advisory Council of the **League of Nations Union**, and has been elected as one of the representatives of Women's Societies on its General Council. At the last meeting of the Women's Advisory Council, Mrs. Edgar Dugdale, British delegate to the League of Nations Assembly, met the representatives of Women's Societies, and her support was asked by the N.C.W. for the Memorandum on the fuller co-operation of women in the work of the League, which question will come up for consideration in connection with the resolution sent forward to the Assembly by the Spanish Government.

A resolution on the subject of **Lodgings for Women** urged the Branches to enquire in their respective areas as to the accommodation available on other than licensed premises. This enquiry has been carried out under a special Sub-Committee of which Mrs. Goodyear has acted as Chairman and Miss E. C. Harvey as Hon. Secretary. The reports sent in by the Branches, as well as by the N.B.W.T.A.U., were in the majority of cases satisfactory, and the results giving the available accommodation, the class for which it is intended, the cost per night, etc., have been tabulated and printed in "Women in Council."

On the **Nationality of Married Women** we welcomed last year the decision of the Council of the League of Nations to consult a Committee representing women's international organisations. On 29th January a deputation in support of the policy of the Pass the Bill Committee waited on the Home Secretary, when Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon represented the N.C.W. This Committee which was originally formed by the N.C.W. has also sent a petition to the Ottawa Conference, urging the British and Dominion Governments to give to British born women independent nationality rights, so that a married woman shall be in the same position as a man in this respect. The Bill to amend the law relating to the rights of British-born Alien Women did not receive the support of the

N.C.W. as it was feared it might delay the fuller measure of justice embodied in the Nationality (Married Women) Bill, which Capt. Cazalet had promised to introduce.

The hope embodied in another resolution that the **Humane Slaughter of Animals Bill** would soon reach the Statute Book has not been fulfilled, since the Bill has had to be withdrawn, so that of the sixteen million animals slaughtered annually in England there are still only four million to which the method of humane slaughter is compulsory applied. Col. Moore has however expressed his appreciation of the help given by the N.C.W. to this long delayed measure.

In connection with the **National Crisis** the following resolution was adopted in Oct. 1931 with reference to the emergency measures passed by the last Parliament before its dissolution:—

"The National Council of Women, recognising that all social services must depend upon the financial stability of the country, urges its members to study carefully the present very serious economic situation, and with a view to the welfare of the nation as a whole to use their votes. For this reason it is refraining during the present election from any active propaganda for the particular objects for which it works."

The Branches were also urged to survey possible openings for voluntary work in their localities, and at the meeting of the Regional and Branch Representatives we hope to hear something of the good response which has been made by the Branches to this appeal.

The need for more **Women on Juries** has been considered by the Public Service and Magistrates Committee, and, in consultation with Sir John Withers and with the help of Miss Bright Ashford, a Bill has been drafted, entitled the Juries Amendment Bill, 1932, which may we hope be introduced as a Private Member's Bill next Session. This Bill would result in more married women being qualified for Jury Service and would necessitate a member challenged being replaced by someone of the same sex. Branches are asked to study the printed Memorandum issued, "Women and Jury Service" (price 1d.) and to endeavour to enlist the support of their local Members of Parliament. While the present Lord Chancellor has expressed his appreciation of the work of Women Magistrates and has appointed 403 since he took office in 1929, we regret to learn that there are still about 40 boroughs in England and Wales without a woman magistrate, and 35 with only one woman.

The National Health Insurance Bill has also been carefully followed in its progress through the Houses of Parliament. Since

it became law, the Minister of Health has been asked, with reference to the heavy sickness claims of married women, if he can furnish information as to how far part-time and occasional workers are responsible for this, and also how far the sickness is due to pregnancy and confinement.

The Children and Young Persons Bill has been discussed in all its stages by a special Sub-Committee. Part 4, dealing with Employment, has been considered by the Industrial Committee, which urged the need for the protection of Young Persons and the regulation of their hours of work. Clause 49 enables Local Authorities to make bye-laws with regard to the employment of children in unregulated trades, and while in the ordinary course no child under 12 years may be employed, special bye-laws may now be made to allow children to be employed by their parents, provided this employment is in light agricultural or horticultural work. The Executive welcomed the provision that any children or young persons detained in a police station or criminal court must be under the care of a woman. Miss Mason's resignation as Convener of the Industrial Committee has been received with much regret.

At the March meeting of the Executive, a request was received from the London Society for Women's Service that we should sign a Memorandum on the Report of the **Royal Commission on Women in the Civil Service** drawn up by their joint Committee on which we are represented. This Memorandum had been approved by the Public Service Committee, but on the recommendation of the British Colonies Committee that we should draw up a Memorandum of our own, it was agreed that this should be done, and at the meeting of the Executive in May, the joint Memorandum drawn up at request of the Executive by the two Conveners in consultation was considered. The British Colonies Committee, while approving of that part which dealt with the Diplomatic and Consular Service, were not prepared to support the part dealing with the Colonial Service. This asked that the bar to the admission of women to the Colonial Service should be removed, since at present women, though they may hold posts abroad under the Colonial Office, have no official status. In view of the opinion of the British Colonies Committee, the Memorandum was again deferred until the June meeting. In June it was considered and further amended in the hope of meeting the wishes of the British Colonies Committee, and was then passed by the Executive and forwarded to the Prime Minister and to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. In this connection, it may be pointed out that a very similar Memorandum had been sent by the Executive Committee to the Royal Commission on its appointment in 1930, one

of the objects of the N.C.W. being to "Work for the removal of all disabilities of women." As Mrs. Patrick Ness felt that a matter of principle was involved, she sent in her resignation as Convener of the British Colonies Committee. This has been received with the deepest regret, her splendid work as Convener during the past three years having been greatly appreciated. The Countess of Selborne has been nominated as Convener of the British Colonies Committee for next year.

The report on the **Royal Commission on Licensing** has been the subject of several meetings of the Temperance Committee, which was fortunate in having addresses from two of the leading members of the Commission, the Rev. Henry Carter and Mr. Arthur Sherwell. Temperance workers were urged to unite on those recommendations on which all could agree, leaving debatable matters for conference. The Committee learnt with much satisfaction that young workers were drinking less, but deplored the cocktail habit among young people of the leisured classes.

At the Annual Meeting of the **Women Citizens Associations** it was decided to terminate the agreement whereby they had ranked for two years as a Section of the N.C.W., the reason being that they had found their freedom of public action more restricted than they had anticipated. They asked once more to be accepted as an Affiliated Society, Mrs. Mann at the same time expressing their appreciation of having worked under our President and of their close connection with the N.C.W. The Executive accepted this decision, understanding and sympathising with their difficulties, and was glad once again to welcome them as an Affiliated Society. As such we shall hope to continue to work in full co-operation throughout the coming year.

The Household Service League has this year started a training scheme, to tide over the difficult years between 14 and 16 by enabling girls to take up domestic service as a skilled career on leaving school. It has also added to itself a Research Sub-Committee, being a Committee composed of experts who, under Miss Squire's Chairmanship, have been engaged in drawing up the report on Scientific Management of the Household which was presented to the 5th International Congress in Amsterdam this Summer. Miss Haslett and Miss Randle represented the N.C.W. at this Congress.

The Education Committee has discussed in what direction the necessary **retrenchment in educational expenditure** can best be carried out, as well as the opportunities afforded for adult education under the B.B.C., and in connection with the National Adult School Union, which has been carrying on this excellent work for more than a century.

Interesting lists of new books have been presented by Mrs. Sankey to the **Arts and Letters Committee**, whose members have also enjoyed hearing Mrs. St. Loe Strachey give a reading of her new play "Lamartine." Mrs. Thompson Seton, of New York, asks our interest and help in connection with the coming Women Writers' Conclave at the World's Fair in Chicago in July, 1933.

At the request of the National Association for the Blind, an opportunity of meeting that remarkable woman, Miss Helen Keller, was afforded to the Executive Committee and its Affiliated Societies by the Hon. Mrs. Franklin, who very kindly gave an At Home for the purpose on 7th July.

At meetings of the **British Colonies Committee** we have heard at first hand of the conditions prevailing in British Honduras and in the Falkland Isles, while the help of the Committee has been extended to Mrs. Morrel in her endeavour to secure the vote for women in Bermuda and the Bahamas, and to Mrs. Eden who is hoping to form an Association for Women in Nyasaland.

On the Council of the **National Safety First Association**, which is now endeavouring to enlist the help of women, we have appointed Mrs. Goodyear as our representative, while Miss Matheson represents us on its Public Safety Committee, and Miss Randle on its Home Safety Committee. This Association reports that of the fatal accidents which occur yearly, 7,700 happen in the home, nearly 2,000 being accidents to children.

We have welcomed Spensborough and Ealing as new **Branches**, making 81 Branches in all, and have added the British Women's Hospitality Committee, the Southend Women Patrols Committee and the Teddington Women Citizens' Association to our list of Affiliated Societies. The President, Marjorie, Lady Nunburnholme, Acting Vice-President, and other members of the Executive Committee have given much help in speaking at meetings arranged by Regional Committees and Branches, while the travel lecture given by the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Patrick Ness, in aid of our funds, in addition to helping the Branches, has resulted in over £85 for Headquarters.

At the Office Miss Jeaffreson has succeeded Miss Ridley, whose resignation after 15 years' excellent work was received with much regret. A testimonial was presented to her as an expression of the Committee's appreciation of her services.

As regards the **International Council of Women** the meetings of its Committees which were to have been held in Stockholm this year have, owing to the financial crisis, been postponed until 1933, and the next International Congress will be held in Paris in 1934.

FINANCE REPORT.

By the Hon. Treasurer, MRS. PATRICK NESS.

The National Council of Women during the last year has not escaped from the effects of the world economic crisis. The ordinary yearly receipts have decreased by considerably more than two hundred pounds, and during many months it was necessary to borrow in order to meet outstanding bills. This decrease in receipts can only be checked by comparing last year's receipts with this year's, item by item, a procedure I do not propose to adopt. It will suffice to note that the decrease came through reduced subscriptions, reduction in sales of literature, etc., and in the letting of the committee room, but chiefly because only a small proportion of the money from the Aberdeen Conference came into this year's accounts since two conferences were held during the previous financial year.

That in spite of this we have ended the year with a large balance in hand is due to four things.

(1) To the prompt response by Hon. Treasurers of Branches and Societies, and by members to the appeal I sent out towards the end of the year, reminding them about overdue subscriptions, resulting in the payment of subscriptions in July and August amounting to £299 4s. 10d.

(2) A donation of £100 from Lady Battersea.

(3) The transfer to the General accounts of the closing balance of the Publications account amounting to £84 6s. 2d., being profit on sale of literature.

(4) A considerable decrease in expenditure.

Before going further I should like to congratulate the Branches on the fact that at the close of the year only three Branches owed their £5 fees, and only two Branches their 25% subscriptions. If any Hon. Treasurer is inclined to feel that I may have overstated the urgency in making my appeal, let me assure her that it was not till August that the borrowed money could be repaid.

If you will now kindly turn to the statement of accounts which is in your hands, I should like to refer to certain entries. Let us take first the

New Offices Fund Account. I would draw your attention to the receipts for 1931-32 which total £323 17s. 10d. The payments consist as usual of Income Tax, additional rent and rates.

The balance will be dealt with in the Balance Sheet on the last page. Then turning to the

Receipts and Payments Account. I referred in my opening remarks to the decrease both in receipts and in expenses. As each entry seems to me to explain itself I do not propose to go into details. It would, however, be clearer if I explained how it is that, though as I say expenses have decreased, the total on the payments side is slightly higher than last year. This is because rates and travelling expenses are for the first time included and because a new typewriter had to be bought. There is one other explanation that I wish to make—to do with the method of auditing the accounts. The method has been approved by your committee and is the same as used last year. Nevertheless I do not feel that comparison should be made between the payments of one year and the next unless it is clearly understood (and I do not think this has been pointed out before) that whereas the receipts are for the year ending 31st August in any year, the payments are for the year from the July Finance meeting of one year to the July finance meeting of the next year. How this can be is explained by the facts that there is no Finance Committee meeting in August, and that the Hon. Treasurer of course only pays bills passed by the Committee. A comparison between receipts and payments can also therefore never be quite correct since they do not cover the same periods. To adopt a completely correct method would according to the auditor entail an increased audit fee, and the keeping of books on a far more complicated system.

One other thing however arises out of the fact that there is no Finance Committee meeting in August. That is the vital necessity, if possible, to end the year with a substantial balance since the July and August bills must be passed for payment in September, the first month of the new year. Let us now turn to the

Balance Sheet. I will draw your attention to only three items. Let me first report that the 5% War Stock, belonging to the New Offices Fund was converted into 3½% stock in July last, and that the bonus has been paid into the New Offices Fund account. Secondly, with regard to the New Offices Fund current and deposit accounts which stand respectively at £258 1s. 6d., and £100, the Finance Committee sent from its last meeting a recommendation (which was accepted) to the Executive Committee that £200 of this should be invested, reserving what would be necessary to meet expenses of additional rent and rates. Thirdly, we come to the balance of £218 4s. od., in the Income Account, which is the

General Account. It is impossible for me not to feel considerable pleasure at being able to end my short treasurership with so large a balance. Nobody could be more surprised than I am myself. At the beginning of my remarks I pointed out how this balance had been made possible. At the end, in case you may feel too optimistic, let me sound a word of warning. In my explanation regarding the payments account, I drew attention to the need for having a large balance at the end of the financial year because the July and August bills had to be met at the beginning of a new financial year. These bills for last July and August amounted to over £70. Together with September bills, salaries, etc. we passed bills in September amounting to £172 12s. 10d. That shows clearly how important it is to end with a big balance. The balance was however so much larger this last year than it was the year before, that I am hoping my successor will not be under the necessity of recommending to the Finance Committee that money should be borrowed quite so early in the year, as I was obliged to do, if at all.

Should any questions arise I will gladly answer them to the best of my ability.

While asking you to adopt the financial report, let me add my regrets for the reasons which made it impossible for me to let my name go forward for re-nomination, and thank you for the trust that you have placed in me during the last year. May I add that in Miss Jeaffreson, who succeeded to the post of assistant treasurer almost as soon as I assumed office myself, my successor will, I feel sure, find one who has all the details of the work at her finger tips.

FAWCETT COLLECTION

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Subscriptions:—		
Members.. .. .	336	18 0
Branches (25%)	266	16 1
„ (£5 fee)	375	0 0
Societies.. .. .	116	10 6
Women Citizens' Section	70	14 6
	1,165	19 1
„ Donations:—		
General	32	12 0
Aberdeen Conference	15	0 0
The Lady Battersea (Legacy).. .. .	100	0 0
Marjorie, Lady Nunburnholme (for Disarma- ment Conference)	10	0 0
	157	12 0
„ Contributions towards Travelling Expenses	26	0 11
„ Mrs. Patrick Ness's Lecture.. .. .	17	10 0
„ St. Ermin's Restaurant Luncheon	10	2 0
„ Public Service Committee Minutes	40	4 6
„ Other Committee Minutes	10	10 7
„ Household Service League Subscriptions	21	1 6
„ Advertisements in Handbook	57	15 0
„ Sale of Badges.. .. .	17	0
„ Letting of Committee Room.. .. .	24	5 0
„ Sale of N.C.W. Literature:—		
Pamphlets	46	10 6½
Reports	7	8 9½
“Women in Council”	257	17 0
Advertisements in “W.I.C.”	20	0 6
“I.C.W.” Bulletin	7	19 7
	339	16 5
„ Interest and Dividends:—		
3½% Conversion Loan.. .. .	5	5 0
Deposit	1	5 8
	6	10 8
„ Transferred from New Offices Fund:—		
Rent	66	0 0
Rates	97	4 1
	163	4 1
„ Transferred from Publications Account:—		
Closing Balance	84	6 2
„ Refund of Income Tax	1	7 6
	£2,127	2 5

WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN. for the year ended 31st August, 1932.

PAYMENTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Salaries	780	10 2
„ Printing	123	0 9
„ Women in Council:—		
Salary	80	0 0
Printing.. .. .	188	1 6
Postage	35	9 3
	303	10 9
„ Postage.. .. .	79	10 9
„ Stationery	37	15 1½
„ Rent	286	0 0
„ Rates	97	4 1
„ Office Expenses (including £50 for cleaning)	58	14 7
„ Electric Light.. .. .	8	13 9
„ Telegraphic Address	2	0 0
„ Telephone	17	17 1
„ Press Cuttings.. .. .	4	4 0
„ Typewriter	24	13 0
„ Committee Expenses	50	18 4
„ Insurance	14	1 10
„ Pamphlets and Papers	5	6 1
„ Badges	7	11 1
„ Travelling	25	17 6½
„ Bank Charges and Cheques	4	19 3
„ Women Citizens' Section:—		
Share of Subscriptions.. .. .	39	3 6
„ Household Service Committee:—		
Share of Subscriptions.. .. .	16	1 9
„ Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations—Subscription	2	2 0
„ International Conference on Disarmament	10	0 0
„ Fawcett Memorial	1	1 0
„ I.C.W. Balance of Quota	9	19 0
	2,010	15 5
„ Balance carried to Balance Sheet	116	7 0
	£2,127	2 5

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN.
BALANCE SHEET, 31st August, 1932.

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LIABILITIES.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	ASSETS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New Offices Fund:			New Offices Fund:		
Balance per separate account		3058 1 6	Investments: £2,656 14s. 4d., War Stock 5% 1929/1947 at cost (Mar- ket value £2,636 15s. 10d.)	2700 0 0	
Special Organisation Fund:		50 0 0	Cash—Current Account	258 1 6	
Staff Emergency Fund:			Deposit Account	100 0 0	
Formerly Miss Janes' Pension Fund		88 10 9	Special Organisation Fund:		
General Fund		246 0 0	Cash—Deposit Account		50 0 0
Income Account:			Staff Emergency Fund:		
Balance at 1st September, 1931	101 17 0		Cash—Deposit Account		88 10 9
Add Surplus for the year from Re- ceipts and Payments Account	116 7 0		General Fund:		
	218 4 0		Investments (At Valuation at 31st August, 1931)		
	£3660 16 3		£100 Co-Partnership Tenants Stk. 100 0 0		
			£200 3½% Conversion Stock (Market Value £196)	146 0 0	
			Income Account:		
			Cash: Current Account	209 1 1	
			Petty Cash	9 2 11	
				218 4 0	
				£3660 16 3	

WOMEN IN COUNCIL.

NOV., 1932.

We have examined the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending the 31st of August, 1932, and the New Offices Fund Account for the period ending the 31st of August, 1932. There have been produced to us vouchers for the payments and we have compared the Subscriptions with the counterfoil receipts and found them in accordance therewith. We have verified the Investments and the Cash Balances. We have received all the information and explanations we have required, and in our opinion the above Balance Sheet sets out correctly the state of the Council's affairs.

PRIDEAUX, FRERE, BROWN AND CO.,
Chartered Accountants,
12, Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, W.C.2.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN.
NEW OFFICES FUND ACCOUNT, 1926 to 1932.

NOV., 1932.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	PAYMENTS.	£ s. d.
1923/27 To Donations	2,382 5 5	By Cheque Books and Commissions	10 2
„ Interest on Deposit	10 11 2	„ Income Tax (4 years)	125 14 6
1927/28 „ Donations	270 5 1	„ Solicitor's Expenses	21 7 8
„ Interest on War Loan	98 13 10	„ Additional Rent (1929)	21 12 5
„ Interest on Deposit	10 7 0	„ „ (1930)	73 0 0
1928/29 „ Donations	134 6 1	„ „ (1931)	66 0 0
„ Interest on War Loan	98 13 10	„ „ (1932)	66 0 0
„ Interest on Deposit	20 4 9	„ Rates (1929)	51 19 0
1929/30 „ Donations	56 2 6	„ „ (1930)	110 15 10
„ Interest on War Loan	115 15 3	„ „ (1931)	106 3 7
„ Interest on Deposit	21 4 8	„ „ (1932)	97 4 1
1930/31 „ Donations	121 17 6		740 7 3
„ Interest on War Loan	132 16 8	„ Balance carried to Balance Sheet	3,058 1 6
„ Interest on Deposit	1 7 2		
1931/32 „ Donations	93 7 0		
„ Mrs. Patrick Ness's Lectures	68 11 4		
„ Interest on War Loan	132 16 8		
„ Bonus on War Loan	26 11 4		
„ Interest on Deposit	2 11 6		
	£3,798 8 9		£3,798 8 9

WOMEN IN COUNCIL.

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THE SPECIAL SERVICE.

A special service was held in the Cathedral at 9-30 a.m. on October 4th. THE DEAN OF NORWICH, THE VERY REV. D. H. S. CRANAGE, Litt.D., F.S.A. was the Preacher.

NEHEMIAH III, 12,20.

"And next unto him repaired Shallum the son of Halohesh, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem, he and his daughters."

"After him Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired the other piece, from the turning of the wall unto the door of the house of Eliashib the High Priest."

Jerusalem was in ruins, the temple was in danger and the wall was broken down. The devout patriot faithful to his God and country was in distress. Nehemiah, butler to Artaxerxes the King could not hide from his master his sorrow of heart. He confessed, that his countenance was bound to be sad when the city, the place of his fathers' sepulchres, was lying waste and the gates thereof were consumed with fire. Armed with the royal permission he took the long journey from Shushan the Palace to Jerusalem. He arose by night with a few men, telling no one what God had put in his heart. Surveying the chaos he called together the rulers and told them of the good hand of God upon him and the king's words that had been spoken "and they said, let us rise up and build, so they strengthened their hands for this good work." There were difficulties, as there always are in accomplishing a great task, and because of their enemies they held a weapon with one hand while they wrought with the other. The task was finally accomplished, the wall was builded, there was no breach left therein and the doors were set upon the gates. Who carried out the work? The third chapter gives one of the long lists of names which seem so unprofitable in the Old Testament. But let us look a little closer. We get light as to the workers, high and low in social position, and when we come to one of the great men, Shallum, the son of Halohesh, the ruler of half the city, we find that not only did he put his own hand to the work but his daughters helped him. Then later on, for the first time we get an appreciative adverb, "Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired the other piece." Here we have names in the roll of honour. They might be added to the list in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews of those who through faith wrought righteousness. One dwells in thought for a moment on their character. The daughters of Shallum must have been earnest as well as Baruch, for what can be more masculine than the building of a wall? Children though they were of the ruler of the half-part of Jerusalem, they did not think it derogatory to wield the trowel, and even apparently

in the other hand to bear the weapon. All were exhorted to remember the Lord as great and terrible, to fight and labour for their brethren, their sons, their daughters, their wives, and their houses.

Is there no parallel my friends at the present day? Our country, thank God, is not in ruins, the walls are not broken down, and the gates are not burned with fire, but there are serious breaches. Never in the life of any of us have the economic and social troubles seemed greater. All the same let us cultivate a sense of proportion. If we examine the condition of our people a hundred years ago we may be profoundly thankful for the change that has taken place. Forgive a personal reminiscence. My mother used to tell me that when she was a child she knew a woman in her native village who told her that after the Napoleonic wars she had to take the whole of her husband's wages each week and sixpence as well to the mill for flour only. Anything beyond that she had to earn herself. There was no health insurance, no factory Acts, no free education, small help for the sick and dying. We have travelled far since then and the Christian conscience has long felt that we are our brothers' keepers, and that we cannot stand idly by when our brethren are hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, and in prison. To this blessed work of relief and energy wives and daughters are called as well as husbands and brothers. Your great Council has brought home to thousands of women the responsibility they have for the betterment of England. Your Agenda this time shows how alive you are especially to those matters which must appeal to the loving hearts of women: "Sexual offences against young children," "Criminal law amendment acts," "Housing," "Women Police," "Unemployed young persons," "Marriage of Mental Defectives," "Prison reform," "Mechanical haulage in pits," "Health education," "Biological teaching in Schools." May I commend to you very specially No. 4 of your list—The distressed state of Agriculture. In East Anglia we know only too well what this means, for our farms are sometimes wholly arable, and for years it has cost more to grow wheat than the farmers can obtain for it. One dare not contemplate an England where the land has gone out of cultivation, where the skilled workers leave their inherited and healthy employment and flock to the overcrowded towns. You will all support the resolution proposed by the Norfolk and Norwich Branch and do your utmost to preserve the countryside.

Who is sufficient for all these things? Your programme shows that you recognise the hand of God. We welcome you this morning, at the start of your Conference, to this great Cathedral church, which has been for centuries the religious centre of this city and diocese. Day by day you begin your work with a devotional

meeting. All this surely betokens a realisation of a power higher than your own. We have a loving Father who does not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men. We have a High Priest who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. I can give no better wish for your Conference than that God will be its patron and its president.

He should be the centre of our lives. Our souls here and hereafter depend on his loving care, on the atonement of his beloved Son, and the help of his Holy Spirit. But the Saviour when on earth was solicitous not only for the souls of his people but for their bodies as well. He went about doing good and healing all that were possessed of the devil. You in this Conference can follow his footsteps, always remembering that inasmuch as ye do good to one of the least of his brethren ye do good unto Him.

This is St. Francis's Day, the little poor man of Assisi, who, perhaps more than anyone since the time of his Master, spent his strength in lowly service. Let us follow in his footsteps.

‘I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.’

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING.

MRS. FORBES-ROBERTSON HALE presided over a Meeting for Young People on the evening of October 3rd.

THE LORD MAYOR OF NORWICH, who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, in a brief address, asked the audience to follow the lead of the Prince of Wales in giving service to the community.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF YOUTH TO FAMILY AND NATIONAL LIFE.

MRS. FORBES-ROBERTSON HALE began her speech by saying that she had expected it to be a meeting for girls and this had pleased her because she was particularly interested in girls, having been one herself and having three of her own; but she did not know about boys and did not feel competent to talk about them. She never was a boy herself and never had a brother, “which was a mean trick on the part of Fate.” She had supposed it would be a meeting of girls because it was arranged by the N.C.W., which specialised in women present and to come. However she believed in mixing people up. She believed in mixed bathing. It was

better for the sexes to get together in comradeship and friendship than to be looking at each other as if they were basilisks.

It was a fact, however, that the N.C.W. did specialise in the activities of women. It was a Council on which almost all the large bodies of organised women interested in public questions were represented. They might be local or national, dealing with health or world peace. No body of women organised for the purpose of furthering some idea which was for the public good would be refused affiliation with the Council, which was, so to speak, an unofficial Parliament of Women. It was not a Parliament which talked all the time. One of that kind in the country was enough. The Council met once a year for one week only, and the rest of the time it was working through Committees. Once a year only it let loose its oratorical powers and discussed openly the public questions in which its members were most interested. The Young People's Meeting was a kind of informal rehearsal before the official opening session which would be held next day. The young people were making the England of the future, and therefore what they were thinking and doing and saying was really most important, for the future must always be more important than the past.

She thought this was the most wonderful moment to be a young girl that had existed in the history of the world. Girls might think it would have been fun to have lived in ancient Egypt, in the Middle Ages, during the Civil Wars, or in early Rome, but she could assure them that now was the time to be a young woman. Eighteen to twenty years ago was the time to have been born. It was always fairly lucky to have been born a boy, because if anything was going that was good the boys had the chance of it. That was not the case with the girls.

After giving an amusing description of the long, tight clothes in which “young ladies” were expected to play tennis in her mother's day, and relating her own personal experience of bathing, dressed in “voluminous black or blue serge,” in a “black pit of water” at Cromer, Mrs. Forbes-Robertson Hale said it was no wonder that women were told they could neither play tennis nor swim. Now, however, things were different. To-day girls had the power to develop their faculties and strength and ability to the height that divine nature intended. That power had been in the main denied to women, not by men but by stupid and ignorant custom, by every race and age throughout the history of the world. Chinese women's feet were bound, but was that any worse than the 17 inch waist which only allowed a woman to breathe with a small part of her lung? Of course she fainted on occasions and carried a smelling-bottle. Now women were in Parliament. They were

flying over all the seas and lands of the world. One never knew what they were going to do next. They had health and strength and intelligence. They had the use of their brains and could be responsible citizens. As never before they were responsible for what was going on, and could no longer sit back as women had done in the past. It was as much their business as men's to say who should be elected and how the country was to be governed.

Nearly all careers were now open to women, but she was not urging girls to leave home and forget to be good wives and mothers and burst into banking or boiler-making instead. Some women in America did make boilers (she did not know why), and some were steeple jacks. She did not think girls really wanted to do that kind of thing but the point was that, if they did so want, there was no law to stop them. They were no longer prevented from having any job on the grounds of sex. In the past things had not been like this, except in Burma.

No intelligent girl wanted to be regarded as equal to a man. There was no such thing as equality. There was difference between individuals. What society had done was to give to girls practically equality of opportunity with boys, or with people born in richer homes than their own. That was what modern democracy had given to women, and nowhere more than in their beloved little England. The girls of the present day were lucky to have been born when they were; they had freedom and opportunity to mix with their fellows and choose their life partners; they had a better chance of being healthy mothers with healthy children, a better chance of leading useful and happy lives than women had ever had before. They owed all this good fortune to their country and to its institutions—political, social and educational—which had been developed by their predecessors. In return for that they had a moral responsibility and obligation to give something back to their country and the community wherever they could.

Society was so complex that it was difficult for an individual to do a great deal alone. It was easier to work in co-operation with one's fellows—indeed necessary in some degree in every station in life, even to co-operation with the dustman. In paying their debt to society for the free, useful and varied life into which they had been born, they could do it best through co-operation with other people working for the good of the community at large, and there the National Council of Women could help them. She would urge all girls to broaden their horizon, develop their responsibilities of citizenship, try to pay back a trifle of what their fathers and brothers perhaps did in giving their lives in the Great War.

If they wanted to pay back that debt they could not do it

better than by becoming part of a corporate body bigger than themselves. Happiness was not to be found merely by doing oneself good. That was spiritual teaching which happened also to be a practical truth. In union was strength. They were to pay their debt in part by being loyal wives and devoted mothers, but the domestic debt was not enough. They must also pay their debt as citizens of a great community; and they could best do that by training themselves—body, mind and spirit—so that they would be capable of carrying out any service to which they were called.

DOES YOUTH KNOW BEST?

MR. J. R. ECCLES, Head-master of Gresham's School, said the subject of his address was suggested by Sir James Barrie's well-known Rectorial Address on "Courage" delivered at St. Andrew's ten years ago. He was afraid he was not a very good person to answer the question. It was his misfortune to be a head master, which was a bad start for anyone. He thought the question could best be answered by the actions of Youth, by the height of its ideals, its sense of purpose in life, and its love of work and service.

"My own belief" he said, "is that modern Youth is fundamentally sound. It is craving for a fuller and a larger life, and only requires to have its energies directed into the most fruitful channels. There are glorious years ahead of you if you choose to make them glorious. "Twenty to twenty-five," it has been said, "are the years. C. H. Spurgeon at 20 was preaching in the London Tabernacle; George Williams was 23 when he founded the Y.M.C.A.; David Livingstone at 23 was at his work in distant Africa."

Youth is the time of increasing usefulness. Your life begins to count. Society needs you. It gives you a vote. It cannot settle its economic, industrial and national questions without you. And when you get a vote, use it. Play your part as an intelligent citizen. "Youth" said the Prince of Wales recently, "cannot remain a spectator of life. The work of the world will soon be on your shoulders; many tasks await you—knowledge to be discovered, natural resources to be developed, sickness to be conquered, wrongs to be righted."

There is, happily, no reason to doubt that the youth of to-day are as eager for adventure of every kind as ever they were and as fearless. We have just recently been deploring the loss of that fine young Arctic explorer, Gino Watkins. Above all things, be eager, and enthusiastic, and keen. Build your castles in the air whilst you are young; if you do not build them now, you never will. Do not hoard your life, spend it on an aim outside yourself, on something that you feel is really worth while.

I am afraid my remarks will probably be more suited to boys than to girls, for I know far less about girls. So the feminine part of my audience must forgive me if I fail to do full justice to their side. I read the other day an Examiner's Report which said, "In my opinion the best girls this year are markedly superior to the best boys. They are more accurate, they present neater work, and their powers of expression are more fully developed." That did not surprise me in the least. My less satisfactory boys always seem to have most exemplary sisters—so clever, and hard-working, and in all ways models of virtue.

But, however superior to your brothers you may be, do not make it your aim to ape the men. Cultivate the qualities that one associates with the noblest women. Train yourselves so that you may some day help to create cheerful, orderly and beautiful homes. Unless we have the right kind of homes, it does not very much matter what we have. How much we owe to our mothers! Do you know these words of Grenfell of Labrador: "My mother was my ideal of goodness. I have never known her speak an angry or an unkind word. Looking back over fifty years of life, I cannot pick out one thing to criticise in my mother." How many of us can echo those words from our own experience! Of how many fine lives has a good mother been the inspiration! You could not possibly set before yourselves a higher ideal.

I should like to express my admiration for the splendid work that women have done and are doing to-day in professional, educational, social, municipal, political and religious life. You have only to examine a list of the many important and far-reaching reforms, which the National Council of Women have initiated in the past, to realise the tremendous power for good that women exercise in the world to-day. The emancipation of women, which has been so great a benefit to the nation, gives the girls of to-day immense scope and boundless opportunities for service of every kind.

Without in any way wishing to be patronising, may I pay my tribute to the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides? These are grand movements, that are having very wide and beneficent results. I like the businesslike and purposeful air of the Scouts, the dignified and self respecting bearing of the Guides. These fine movements make for high standards of truth and honour and purity, for kindness and unselfishness, for discipline and loyalty, and deserve all the encouragement we can give them. They teach boys and girls to think firstly of the community and secondly of themselves, and are thus a splendid training in citizenship. I believe especially in the value of the promises they undertake. They deliberately set

before the young high standards for them to aim at. If only all our young people were Scouts or Guides, many of our most serious problems of the future would be solved.

"Does Youth know best?" Does it put first things first? It is very important to get a right sense of values. Do not waste your time on trivial things. The best things in life are not cars, wireless, flying, racing of various kinds, or the pursuit of wealth. The best things in life are represented by the Bible, Shakespeare, Handel, Dickens, our great Cathedrals, the beauties of nature and grand mountain scenery, such as the Dolomites, the glories of the garden, the Sun and the Moon and the Stars, and by honest games, which are played and not merely looked at.

"Does Youth know best?" Does it believe in being thoroughly educated? Do not consider your education finished when you leave school, but continue your serious reading and study. Be determined to be some one who can talk intelligently on a variety of subjects. Take a real interest in current affairs. Make good use, too, of the excellent public libraries which are provided nowadays and, if you can, build up a library of your own. Few things are better by way of enjoyment than the stimulus of good books.

It is a great thing to have a hobby, to take up the study of Natural History; to get an interest in flowers, birds, insects, beasts or rocks. But it is better to observe animal life than to kill or collect. The study of nature adds enormously to the joy and interest of life; it is moreover a life long possession. Then there is the study of art and architecture. In Norfolk we are very fortunate in this respect with our beautiful Abbeys and fine Churches. And there are music and acting, both of them good things to pursue; and handicraft, which makes a very useful hobby. The Youth Hostels Association is doing very good work by encouraging walking and promoting a right attitude towards the countryside, for which the Council for the Preservation of Rural England is putting up such a gallant fight. It is a great thing to be content with simple things, to be able to entertain yourself without much paraphernalia. It is having a variety of interests which adds zest to life, and makes people happy, and contented, and easy to live with.

Your "contribution to family and national life" will be a valuable one if you have the right outlook; if you grow up into a man or woman with the right kind of character, for character inevitably expresses itself in action. Give me an unselfish girl, and she will have a sense of service to her home and the community. Give me a boy of honour and he will run straight and do his duty as a citizen of his town and country. If you see your duty plain before you, follow it, come what may. Do you know the prayer of the Roman sailor? "O Neptune, thou mayest sink me or thou

mayest save me, but, whatever befalls, I will keep my rudder true." Keep your rudder true, whatever the cost. Count faithfulness your true success.

Do you recognise what tremendous power for good you possess? If you would, you could change things for the better to a wonderful extent in this our County of Norfolk. But for that you require character. The work cannot be better than the workman; what we accomplish depends ultimately upon what we are. Remember that character will be your greatest possession and that integrity of character is worth everything; with it you can face any hardship or danger. It is the one thing no one can take from you; you carry it with you wherever you go.

And one of the foundations of character is self-control. The great difference between man and the lower animals is the power to say "No." According to some modern educationists it is a mistake to thwart the young. They tell us that children would be perfectly good but for the harmful influence of parents and schoolmasters. I do not altogether agree with that view! It is necessary, I believe, at times to say "No" to the young; to say you must not do this or that. But whether that is so or not, I am quite certain that it is necessary at times to say "No" to one's self, to exercise self-control. Beware of the advocates of the New Morality, who encourage freedom in place of self-control. Make your stand for self-discipline and self-denial against the indulgence of every appetite; for the family life against those who would destroy it. Do not make it your aim to see life, if that means seeing the sordid and unclean side of life. Keep to the things which are beautiful and good, and true.

"Does Youth know best?" Has Youth a purpose in life? Do you know what Gladstone said? "Be inspired by the belief that life is a great and noble calling, not a mean and grovelling thing that we can shuffle through as best we can." Set before yourself some worthy ambition. Mean to be something with all your might. If you get the chance, give yourself in some great cause. Have a purpose in life and follow it with intense concentration. Live for one thing, as did Sir Ronald Ross, that great benefactor of mankind. Anything is possible for the man who knows his end, and moves straight for it and for it alone. It was said of Robert Louis Stevenson, that "he did the thing that he was doing as if it were the one thing in the world that was worth being done." The wisest are those who fix their eyes in youth on some ideal and make all life an adventure of daring faith.

Does Youth love work? A love of work and thorough work is the foundation of everything. It is wonderful the satisfaction that

comes from a piece of work well done. It is a fine thing to acquire a pride in good work, the love of a thing done up to the hilt.

Is Youth out for service? Make up your mind that your life shall be divided up between your work and the service of your fellow men. Public spirit, the spirit which makes a man or woman eager to devote themselves to the welfare of their village, or town, or country, is one of the best things. The well-being of the place in which we live should mean much to us; we should care tremendously to make and keep it clean, healthy, sober, beautiful, pure, righteous and religious. As you get older be ready to take your part in civic work, which is always in need of men and women of the right spirit. And be prepared to do a job without being asked to do it. It is a great encouragement when offers of help are made.

And in all your relations with others, and especially with the young, trust more to love than to fear. Fear and repression are of little use in the training of character. To those of you who are leaders—and all of you should make that your aim—I would say, substitute leading for driving, inspiration for compulsion, trust for suspicion, love for force. You will not necessarily find it easier to rule others by these means, but the results you will obtain will be far finer. And hold on tenaciously to this belief especially when people disappoint you. Do not be sparing, too, in the matter of praise. A little praise that is well deserved is a tremendous encouragement, especially to any one who is feeling disheartened or depressed.

And give happiness whenever you can. Hippocrates, who lived about 1500 B.C., explained his happiness in these words, "Love of my fellows and love of my job." Happiness has been described as "a great love and much serving." It comes from what you put into life, not from what you get out of it. It comes through brotherhood and service; from the spirit for which the fine Toc H. movement stands. And the other secret of happiness is work; it comes from having a work to do that you love and that is worth doing. It is our duty, if we can, to be happy to make other people happy. "It is the melancholy face," says a Japanese proverb "that gets stung by the bee."

"Does Youth know best?" What is the attitude of Youth to War and to Disarmament? Very sound, I should say. The glamour of war has largely gone and we must see that it is not recaptured. I do not altogether wonder that some people have doubts as to the wisdom of military displays. Youth should support all efforts towards the spread of peace and goodwill among nations, and the drastic reduction of armaments all round. The League of Nations Union, which exists to focus public opinion

against war, does not get nearly as much support as it deserves. You could quickly alter this if you would. Youth in my experience has no use for enmity. There ought to be a League of Youth against War, and its motto might well be Wesley's "We are friends of all—enemies of none." There are pessimists who tell us that it is human nature to fight. Yes, but what sort of human nature? Not the highest of which humanity is capable.

I am delighted with the steadily growing friendship between our own country and other nations. It is good to see, so often, parties of German boys and girls coming to England, and the visits being returned. When I saw my boys playing German boys at hockey, I realised how impossible it was to think of them ever fighting one another. It is good to work for brotherhood and co-operation of every kind, whether at home in our industrial relations or abroad in international affairs. No man can live unto himself and no country can. The unselfish spirit must permeate not only home life, but national and international life as well. It is not the independence, but the interdependence, of nations that we must aim at. Co-operation is the crying need of the whole world to-day.

What is the attitude of Youth to the question of alcohol? Much encouragement to drinking alcohol is being given to-day by means of advertisements. Do not be deceived by them. You will be all the better without it. You will be saved many anxieties and possibly some serious dangers. Your efficiency will undoubtedly be increased, especially for any action that requires good judgment and quick decision, as, for instance, the driving of a motor car. Alcohol does not make for physical strength and fitness, but tends to reduce a man's energies and powers, as so many experts in all kinds of sport bear witness. It weakens a man's will-power and lessens his self-control.

What is the attitude of Youth to the question of gambling? Gambling has been rightly called "The sport without a smile." It does not deserve the name of sport; only the prize counts, the game is nothing. It is a sound principle not to take money without giving service in return. If you would help your country, oppose gambling of every kind, which has become a dreadful menace.

What is the attitude of Youth to Religion? "Religion," says H. G. Wells, "is the first and last thing. Until a man has found and been found of God, he begins at no beginning and he works towards no end. He may have his friendships, partial loyalties and scraps of honour, but these fall into place, and life falls into place, only with God." One of the misfortunes of Mod-

ern Youth is the decay of religion in recent years. So many young people have no firm basis on which to build their lives. Some of the sanctions have gone and moral conduct has deteriorated accordingly. There are principles underlying character and conduct, which the young need to guide them aright. I am afraid the fault very frequently lies in the home. I believe in the family life that begins with family prayers, and dedicates the day to God's guidance and God's service. It is, however, a mistake to imagine that Youth is not interested in Religion, as the rapid growth of the Oxford Group Movement proves. The man or woman is greatly to be envied who has given up all for "the pearl of great price." "Follow the Christ, the King, live pure, speak true, right wrong," is a wonderfully simple, yet comprehensive, challenge for the youth of to-day.

Do you ask, "What contribution can I make to family and national life?" You can live a true, honourable, Christian life—in the home, in society, in business, in all your relations with your fellow men and women. The greatest contribution one can make to a community is to be a good man or a good woman, reverencing honour and honesty, truth and justice, love of courtesy, and trying to exalt these in all one is and does. Be known as the enemy of everything that is mean and cruel, and as the friend of all that is generous and kind. Be intolerant of social wrong and wretchedness. Fight constantly against the things that soil and corrupt human life. Be full of zeal not for your own rights, but for the removal of other people's wrongs, eager to spend and be spent in the service of others.

"Does Youth know best?" There are people who say that Youth to-day is too much out for pleasure, that it has no real love of work, that it is lacking in a sense of service, that it resents all discipline and is wanting in self control, and so on. These charges may be true of some young people. But I am bound to say that, as a schoolmaster of over thirty years experience, I find the boys of today no less responsive, better informed, equally high-principled, just as hardworking, more eager and alive to all sorts of things than their predecessors. If the youth of today will aim at the type of character I have tried to indicate and devote themselves to the kind of service I have attempted to describe, then I have no fears for the future of family and national life in our land. Will you not make this your response to the "Call to Youth?"

Bring me my bow of burning gold!

Bring me my arrows of desire!

Bring me my spear! O, Clouds unfold!

Bring me my chariot of fire!

I will not cease from mental strife
 Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand
 Till we have built Jerusalem
 In England's green and pleasant land."

CAPTAIN COE (Norwich Boy Scouts) proposed a Vote of Thanks to the speakers, which was seconded by MISS AUDREY MANN, (Girl Guides).

FIRST PUBLIC MEETING.

THE LORD BISHOP OF NORWICH, the Rt. Rev. B. Pollock, D.D., K.C.V.O., presided over a Public Meeting on the evening of October 4th.

The BISHOP, speaking of Transport, said he was delighted to think that the transport in his district had been so efficient as to bring such a large gathering as the National Council to Norwich. On the subject of Housing, he spoke with hope. Those who had heard the sermon that morning by the Dean of Norwich would welcome what he had said about not being discouraged: how, looking back at the progress made in the past, we must go forward to doing greater things in the future. The Bishop quoted an extract from the *Times* in 1832, describing the terrible conditions in which the Irish in Manchester were then living, and said that when we looked back at that ghastly state of things he thought, like St. Paul, we might thank God and take courage.

PROBLEMS OF MODERN TRAFFIC.

LT. COL. MOORE-BRABAZON, M.C., M.P., said there was a saying that transportation was civilization. It had something in it but it was one of those half-truths, for civilization did not really start while the nomad tribes were still wandering about but only when they settled down.

History did not say who invented the first wheel, but if any man deserved a statue in every town, it was that unknown inventor. It should be remembered that an astonishing change had taken place in methods of transport during the last hundred years. A century ago people travelled about the earth in much the same way that they had done three thousand years ago. Julius Caesar could move his army about much as Wellington did. All through the centuries we relied on our old ally the Horse, and except for occasional assistance from camels and elephants, transportation remained pretty stagnant. The force which started the great change was, of course, the invention of the steam engine. The moment

the steam engine was invented it lent itself to transportation, but the machinery it necessitated was so weighty that it could not be put upon ordinary roads. So the invention of the railway followed. And the English had been the great pioneers in railway construction.

From that time the great industrial development of England began. Coal, steel and iron were all wanted, and we were then the great exporter of fuel throughout the world instead of being, as now, an importer of oil.

The system of railway development grew up in this country under the free method of private enterprise and competition. Personally he felt that in a new country the railway ought to be connected with the State, because the railway was a means of development of the country and therefore should help to increase the wealth of the State, instead of merely adding to the value of property belonging to private individuals. But in this country the railways had grown up without any State connection or control, and as a result most of the towns of England were served by two systems of railways. That did not mean they had twice as good a train service, and it did mean that, from the point of view of capital, twice as much had been spent as would have been necessary without such cut-throat competition. The war had brought about a change in this process. Speaking for himself, he had never understood why everybody who had a thousand pounds in shipping became a millionaire during the war, whereas anybody who had money in railways became a pauper. However, since the war, a certain number of railway amalgamations had taken place, though they had not always turned out as beneficial as had been expected. For one thing it had taken years to get the amalgamated spirit between two former rivals in the railway world.

Coming to the question of railways versus roads, the speaker said that it was impossible to exempt the railway companies from a lack of vision in practically everything they touched. They should have seen that road transport was not a rival but a method of feeding their main lines; but not until great organisations had grown up did the railways take action. Again, there was a lack of foresight about electrification, though here the Southern Railway had managed its affairs rather better than usual. No attempt at electrification had yet been made, however, to the north-east of London, where the difficulties of transport were tremendous.

Colonel Moore-Brabazon referred to the "rise" of the motor car as a means of transport, and the problem it had created for the roads. Obviously it was a form of transport that was not indigenous to one locality, and was not limited more or less to the roads in its

own district. To meet this problem, Mr. Lloyd George introduced in 1920 the scheme known as the Road Fund, whereby motorists paid contributions into a central fund in order to provide for road improvements, as it was not fair that the whole burden should fall on the local authorities. That scheme had been very successful and the system of taxation adopted had produced one surprising and most interesting result. By a lucky chance the first formula adopted for the taxation of motor cars had led to the motor industry we had to-day. It had acted as an enormous deterrent to the importation of American cars, and had therefore led to the development of a light car industry in England. It was quite true that we did not yet make the kind of car which was suitable for the Dominions, but then, if it had not been for that lucky formula, there would never have been a motor industry in this country at all. The Road Fund was used for helping local authorities with the upkeep of their roads, but it was clear that soon motorists would have to pay for the whole of that upkeep and the local authority would be relieved more and more of expenditure on roads.

He would like to say one word about legislation from a motor point of view. He thought the 20 mile speed limit had been kept much too long, for every motorist exceeded it and it was wrong to have a law that everyone broke. If the speed limit were fixed at any particular rate, that gave the impression that it was safe to go at that rate, which might sometimes prove very dangerous doctrine. He thought it was wiser to take off the speed limit and tighten up that form of offence known as dangerous driving. But of course the fact that a motor car which could go 80 miles an hour could be bought for £200 constituted a menace to the community if the car came into certain hands. And we did kill five thousand people a year on our roads. Everybody had been brought up to think that a railway was a dangerous thing to cross, and consequently took the greatest care about crossing the sleepest line; but for hundreds of years the great roads of this country had been regarded as almost a family playground, and people had not yet learnt to treat them with the respect and reverence they gave to the railways. There might be a great deal of reckless driving but there was also a lot of careless pedestrianism.

The story of London transport illustrated the undesirability of free competition in that particular department of life. In the days when the railways ran into the City and there were horse omnibuses, there was no very great difficulty. Then came the tram. A tram had the advantage over a bus of being able to carry an enormous overload at peak times, but in the centre of a city it was a terrible obstruction. Its true province was the outskirts of a large

town. However the trams did not add much to London difficulties. Then came the Underground and the Tubes. The Underground was useful, by reason of its topography, in a way that no other form of transport could be. The Tubes, many of which ran straight along popular bus routes, did very well until the motor bus arrived, and then there was trouble. At that time the control of London traffic had got into the hands of Lord Ashfield, who realised it would be best to pool the receipts of those two forms of transport. The motor bus improved greatly after the war, with the result that people took to patronising it more than the tubes, and at the present time London buses contributed half a million a year to keep the tubes alive. Without their help the tubes would go broke, yet it would be a great pity if the tubes were done away with as an uneconomic institution.

After referring to the Salter Report and the changes it proposed in taxation, Colonel Moore-Brabazon passed to the possibilities of aviation as a means of transport. He said he was—though it was only 23 years ago—one of the pioneers of aviation. All the people who in those early days were keen on aviation had a great ideal with regard to its future. They took the view that such a form of transport would be of immense value in knitting countries together. Then came the war, and with it the discovery of the military possibilities of aviation. That fatal discovery gave aviation a bad reputation which it was still living down. The war had left us with a type of machine unsuitable for commercial use and we had been suffering from that ever since. He believed, however, that we should soon reach the stage at which, as Mr. Churchill said, civil aviation would "fly of itself." On the other hand the dream of great overseas air liners seemed to have been wrecked by the disaster to the R101. He had himself served on the commission of inquiry, and had come out of it with his confidence in the future of air liners very much shaken. They were expensive and there was always the danger of fire.

Meanwhile the aeroplane was becoming a bigger and bigger carrier of passengers every year, and that fact held great possibilities. We had to remember that with an Empire such as ours aviation was more important to us than to most other countries, for it brought our overseas members nearer in time.

In conclusion Colonel Moore-Brabazon said that at the present moment we were considered the best builders of aircraft in the world, and he only hoped we should, in that capacity, continue to lead the world.

PROBLEMS OF NEW HOUSING SCHEMES.

CAPTAIN R. L. REISS (L.C.C. Housing Committee) said that since 1918 probably more attention had been given and more progress made in regard to housing than to any other social problem. Nearly two million houses of varying sizes had been built since the War. Approximately half of these—of which the greater proportion had been built by local authorities—had been let at weekly rents.

It might well be asked then why, despite this fact, there still seemed to be an acute housing problem; and the more so because, according to the Census figures, the rate of increase in population during the last two decades had been substantially reduced. The answer was three-fold.

There had really been an over-building of houses other than the weekly rented type, and considerable numbers of these were actually empty.

Secondly, the weekly rented houses which had been built had for the most part accommodated the better paid workers and, so far as they were concerned, certainly had relieved the shortage; very little progress had been made, however, in improving conditions for the poorer sections and in regard to the clearance of slum dwellings and slum areas.

Thirdly, it had to be borne in mind that while the total population was increasing less rapidly than before, the Census figures showed that the rate of increase in the number of families was as great as ever. As our aim ought to be to provide for each family's having its own home and not having to lodge with others, the number of dwellings required was constantly increasing with the increasing number of families.

The real problem now was to relieve over-crowding amongst the poorer sections of the community and to make steady progress with the clearance or improvement of slum areas. This was a great task, and it might be said that, in view of the necessity for national economy, we could not afford to tackle such a problem at present. For his own part, he would rather say that we could not afford *not* to tackle it and that we must proceed energetically with our national and local efforts in this direction.

It was true that there was a deficit on each of the new houses that was built for letting by local authorities, but in considering the question of economy it was necessary to take all the factors into account.

First there was the relation between health and housing, and the economic loss due to bad health. The figures published by Dr. Hope, when Medical Officer of Health for Liverpool, in

regard to the incidence of tuberculosis in slum areas in the dock district before and after clearance and reconstruction, showed that for the same population the tuberculosis was reduced to one-third by the improvement in conditions. This definitely represented an economic saving, apart from purely humanitarian considerations. And in regard to infant mortality, in Welwyn Garden City, for instance, that mortality for the last five years had averaged 22, as compared with the national average of 63 and the figures for slum areas, amounting to well over 100 per 1,000 live births.

In the second place, it should be remembered that there was at present a large amount of unemployment in the Building trade. One hundred building trade operatives, if fully employed, would build (as nearly as possible) one hundred houses per annum. If unemployed, an operative and his family would cost in unemployment pay, relief, etc., something between £60 and £100 a year—say an average of £75. He thought that it was fair to bring into the question of local and national economy the amount that would have to be paid to a man for doing nothing. On the one hand a house was obtained for every building operative fully employed; on the other, £75 was spent and nothing produced.

Thirdly, the present cost of building should be taken into account. It was now possible to build houses considerably more cheaply than had been the case two years ago, the saving being at least £50 per house; also local authorities could borrow money for building at rates approximately 1% lower than they could a few years ago. The combination of these two facts made possible either:

- (a) A reduction in rent of 2s. 6d. a week; or
- (b) A reduction in the amount of subsidy to be found by the State.

As practical measures, Captain Reiss suggested that women who were concerned with social conditions should put pressure on their local authorities to carry on housing activities. The need now was not so much for further legislation but for more effective administration by the local authorities, and individual effort could do much to stimulate this. He wished also to commend the work of the voluntary Housing Societies up and down the country. They deserved support, and those who could afford it should provide capital for their work.

In conclusion, he thought that much could be done by people of good will, to help those who had migrated into new houses from slum areas to respond to their new opportunities. The question was always being asked: whether slum conditions produced the slum dweller or the slum dweller produced slum conditions. His own experience—which had been quite wide—was that 90% of

families previously living in slum conditions would respond to better environment and would keep their new dwellings reasonably well. A lot could be done for the remaining 10% by sympathetic help on the part of people who were really interested and desirous of giving assistance.

SECOND PUBLIC MEETING.

THE PRESIDENT, Lady Trustram Eve, J.P., presided over a Public Meeting on the evening of October 6th.

THE PRESENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

SIR GEORGE PAISH said that the subject was one of very great importance, probably more important than any subject we had ever had to discuss before. In the war we knew what we had to do. Now we had reached a crisis in which no one nation knew what action to take. The situation was consequently getting worse and worse. Our own bankers were probably in a better position than the bankers of any other nation, but it must be admitted that the financial institutions of all countries were in grave danger, and unless right steps were taken, and taken soon, there would undoubtedly be a complete breakdown of credit. And trade could not be carried on without credit.

Since the war the world had been living on credit and not paying its debts. It could not have continued to live if credit had not been available, and the amount of credit to enable the nations to buy what they needed since 1918 had been far greater than at any other period in the world's history. During that time £4,000,000,000 sterling of credit had been created to enable people to buy what otherwise they could not have bought. Germany had borrowed from other nations 1,200 millions sterling in order to live and pay reparations.

In 1929 it was realised that the world was over-borrowed: that bankers were not justified in making further loans. And because the bankers of the world ceased to lend new money, the world's buying power was reduced in one year by one thousand millions sterling. As a result the prices of all the great basic commodities had fallen in the most amazing manner, and the result of that in turn was that all the great industries that had been affected by this fall in the price of commodities were in distress.

Norfolk people were in a position to realise at first hand the hard situation of the British farmer—though the British farmer's position was infinitely better than that of the farmer in other countries. The farmers of Canada were almost on the point of

starvation notwithstanding their huge crops. Farmers in America were also in deep distress. No fewer than 8000 farming banks had failed in the United States in consequence of the inability of American farmers to meet their liabilities. And what was true of Canada and America was also true of the Argentine, South Africa and Australia. And what was true of the farmers was also true of the cotton planters, the coffee planters and the rubber growers. How could they meet their liabilities with prices that had fallen so greatly?

Statesmen thought that by lending money the world could be made prosperous. But the world was made prosperous by paying not by borrowing. It could not become prosperous until the peoples of all countries were in a position to pay their debts. It was not the bankers who were responsible for the situation but the people. The statesmen of the world were directly responsible because the peoples of the world relied on the statesmen to guide them, and expected the statesmen to understand the problems before them and to know what to do. The statesmen merely pretended to know. It was their business to tell the truth about the situation. But, like Mr. Micawber, they lived on the hope that something would turn up and everything would right itself. All the time the statesmen were doing things that were making the situation not better but worse. The nations of the world were unwilling to buy. The German reparations business had caused nations to say they must not buy foreign goods and so had blocked the world's trade. Owing to this policy of the nations there had been a shrinkage in the world's income of more than 50 per cent. America had felt the full force of the decline in the world's buying power and the inability to obtain credit. In 1929 practically everyone in America was employed. To-day there were 12 million unemployed, and, added Sir George, "God knows how many there will be by this time next year unless something is done to relieve the situation." The position in Germany, too, was serious.

After explaining the reasons for going off the gold standard, Sir George passed to the consideration of how this shrinkage in the world's income could be arrested. The first thing to be done was to acknowledge the danger. He was glad to see that President Hoover had at last told the American show dangerous the position had been. It was essential that all statesmen should face the situation and tell their people the truth. It was no use to say any longer that the situation would adjust itself. It could not without the help of the people; they must know what was the danger and what were the remedies. Some of those who followed financial affairs had realised that this great crisis was inevitable, and had

tried to get steps taken in time to mitigate its effects. In 1926 he had himself warned the members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union of the coming crisis. One of them had said in reply, that if the remedies then suggested were advocated to their constituents, they would be thrown out. People did not wish to hear unpleasant things and to have members of Parliament running up against their prejudices.

"In my judgment," said Sir George, "it is essential for members of Parliament to take the people into their confidence and tell the truth. As men of honour they ought to be willing to be thrown out. They should have taken the risk."

Sir George went on to say that if Members had taken the risk and had been thrown out, it might have done something at any rate to wake the public of all countries to the danger ahead. Now it was essential to tell the truth. One of the first things to be done to restore the economic situation was the re-creation of confidence, so that every nation might feel it would be able to meet its liabilities. Great Britain should announce to the world that her policy in future would be directed to the maintenance of world peace and the promotion of world prosperity. America should come into the League of Nations and bring her support, with that of every other country. If we were to get out of this trouble, the nations must not think merely of themselves. They must think of what contributions they could bring. Hindrances to trade must disappear. Tariffs and all barriers to trade must be removed. The world should be made entirely Free Trade.

In conclusion, Sir George said that a great deal was said in these days about "those Victorians." Those Victorians had opened up the world. At no period of history was the world's progress greater than during the time of the Victorians, who denied themselves for the benefit of themselves and their children. "Are you prepared," he asked, "to deny yourselves for the benefit of humanity as they were prepared to do? If not you cannot get out of this trade depression. You must open up the world to production and trade, and it requires a great amount of capital to do that. If you will bring the same spirit of sacrifice as in the war, the situation will be saved."

WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO A NEW ETHIC IN PUBLIC LIFE.

DR. A. MAUDE ROYDEN said that when she first came into public life, it did not occur to her that there was any special debt that women could pay other than the sort of debt that every citizen has paid throughout the ages. But, as she watched women entering

more and more into public life, she began to realise that there was, after all, some special contribution that they could make and that she hoped they would make towards "a new ethic in public life." She had never thought that women were more spiritual or religious or virtuous in any special way than men. In the matter of virtue and merit men and women seemed to her much of a muchness.

The first business of women coming into public life was to emphasize the fact that they felt the differences between the sexes had been exaggerated, in which they were perfectly right. A great number of people held the idea that women belonged to an entirely different species, and inevitably the first feminists were concerned to emphasize the fact that nine-tenths of our humanity was common to both sexes, and that men and women must suffer and hunger and work and rejoice in common. But there was one point at which there was a difference, and it was a difference that went very deep.

This was, of course, the question of difference of sex. Because of its existence there must always be a difference in the way in which men and women approached certain problems. Because of its existence the first charge on human life must be borne by women. To bring life into the world involved for women danger and pain, long and anxious thought and personal and individual care. The care of children was in the hands of women, and it probably would always be so. Examination of the sentences imposed in Court by men judges revealed that enormous penalties were attached to offences against property and comparatively light ones for offences against life. To a woman, offences against life seemed much worse than offences against property, and here the contribution of such profound true feminist thought was needed in public ethics. A greater respect for personal life, for human individuality and personality was needed. When a conflict arose between an institution and human life, it was the institution that should be adapted and not the life that should be sacrificed. In countries like Russia and Italy, for instance, where great emphasis was placed on the claims of the State, there was apt to be curtailment of the rights of human beings. A new ethic was required which would be willing to test every institution by the degree in which it was of service to individual needs.

She believed this to be at the heart of Christ's teaching. Students of comparative religion had expressed the opinion that the chief contribution of Christianity had been its emphasis on the life rather than the institution, and that the supreme gift of the Christian faith had been that reverence for human personality. "The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath." That saying embodied a profound political principle by which all

institutions should be tested. Again and again in public life the individual was found to be sacrificed to the institution. The State was the false god of the twentieth century. This was seen very clearly in the blind worship given to political parties, when the Party was treated as more important than the person. She herself hoped that women would keep their freedom of thought and support the person rather than the party. It was a matter of congratulation for all women in the country, that the first three women to enter the House of Commons were women of such outstanding character, high traditions and disinterested public service; and it was an extraordinarily good piece of luck that each one belonged to a different party. Lady Astor, Margaret Bondfield and Mrs. Wintringham ought to be in every Parliament. There were men too who ought to be in every Parliament, of whom Lord Cecil was a good example. It was far more important that such people as these should be in Parliament than that a political party should gain another seat. Another way in which women could contribute was by insisting on greater honesty in political life. She hoped that women would have the honesty to own up to their mistakes, so that their supporters were not put to the frenzied business of finding some method of showing that no mistake was really made.

Miss Royden went on to say that she was herself one of those hundreds of thousands of single women who had adopted a child. She would like to see more women in public life who were the mothers of children. She did not want to see it monopolised by women who were not married and were leading lives more like those of men. Mothers were specially needed, but she believed that, generally speaking, the first charge on the care and thought and vitality of women would be their children while they were still quite young. In modern life, however, the specialist could not afford to take ten years off and then return to his subject with any hope of being as good as the man who had given his whole life to it. Women had to make that kind of sacrifice in return for the inestimable privilege of motherhood, and it meant that women, on the whole, would always be the world's amateurs. A woman whose children were her first charge would never be a real specialist. She herself would maintain that just because of this women would be specially valuable in public life, for in this age of experts the decisions of an amateur, who was an amateur in the best sense, were greatly needed. The good amateur was developed all round and not only along one line. The final decision should rest with him and never with the specialist. She would like to see a much larger number of women in Parliament, perhaps also in the Cabinet, perhaps even one day as Prime Ministers; and they should be women who had had the care of children, for although such women might

be amateurs in everything else, they were experts in human nature—which was a subject on which every ruler ought to be a specialist. She thought that women would bring this truth and their special knowledge into the re-organisation of the world, and regard a human being always as an end in himself and not as a means to someone else's end.

Women would surely help to make great strides in the direction of world peace, for the waste and destruction of human life was the last thing to which they could consent. Having risked their own lives to bring life into the world, having given their best efforts to shape it, they would always be reluctant to sacrifice life. She believed that this reverence for human life would make war in the future impossible. Though women could be warlike, deep down in them they had the true peace sense. It was the women, who had devoted themselves most assiduously to the cause of peace through the churches and organised societies.

In conclusion, Dr. Royden said that the differences of which she had spoken did not give women any claim to think themselves better than men. They were differences which arose out of their life experience. If women had monopolised public life as men had for so many centuries, they also would have fallen into errors, different perhaps but just as gross. But by coming into public life and bringing the special gifts which experience had brought them, women would be able to do something to make civilisation lean less heavily to the side of property, with more profit to the side of human life.

THE BRANCHES AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES.

An Open Meeting for Regional and Branch Representatives was held in St. Andrew's Hall, on October 5th, with the PRESIDENT, Lady Trustram Eve, in the Chair.

THE REGIONAL COMMITTEES.

MRS. NOWELL WATKINS, Hon. Secretary of the Regional Committees, gave a Report on the year's work. After explaining briefly the status and objects of these Committees, she proceeded to read extracts from the Annual Reports of the 11 Regional Committees in England and Wales.

Eastern Counties· Cambridge, King's Lynn, Norwich and Peterborough.

Convener· MRS. ALAN GRAY.

Hon. Sec.· MRS. HARTREE.

Two meetings have been held during the year. At the former the resolutions adopted at Aberdeen were discussed, and sugges-

tions made for taking action thereon. At the latter, any resolutions for Norwich put forward by the Constituent Branches, or resolutions for which support had been asked, were considered. The consideration of such resolutions, by the Committee, proves extremely useful, and is of great assistance to the Branches in the matter of choosing resolutions for inclusion in the Agenda of the Annual Council.

At each meeting of the Regional Committee, a member of the Headquarters Executive Committee gives a summary of the work of that Executive during the intervening months. It is found that this item on the Agenda is greatly appreciated by the members of the Committee, and also by those members of the Executive Committee of the local Branch, who are present by invitation.

The Committee has considered at each meeting the question of the formation of new Branches in the area, and enquiries are being made at various towns. The Cambridge Branch has two successful sub-branches, one at Newmarket and one at Huntingdon. The practice of forming sub-Branches in towns near by had been very successful; in the case of quite small towns, the Sub-Branches will probably remain as such, but in the case of larger towns, they may well be stepping stones to the formation of a full Branch which might never have been formed without this help.

Successful *Luncheon* Clubs have been formed by all four Branches in this area, and prove a useful recruiting ground for new members. *Cinema* rotas have been working at Cambridge, and also at King's Lynn, where, in co-operation with other bodies in the town, it is hoped to raise money to pay a salaried social worker for work among women and girls. "Tea and Talk" meetings are also frequently held at King's Lynn, arranged at different times of the day to suit the convenience of members of varying occupations, and a "Canadian" Tea organised on behalf of the Nurses' Home for the Hospital produced £78. Peterborough organised a "Bring and Buy" tea, which brought in £5 for the "New Offices Fund."

Home Counties: Aylesbury, Bedford, Berkhamsted, Gerrard's Cross, Harpenden, Hertford, Hornsey, London, London, Junr., Ruislip, St. Albans, and Watford.

Convener: MISS CECILE MATHESON.

Hon. Sec.: MISS JOAN HEYWOOD.

One meeting was held in November, 1931 and two have been held this year. At each meeting there have been inspiring reports of the live activities of the Branches. The Convener has visited most of the Branches in this area. London has now a very successful *Luncheon* Club.

East Midland: Derby, Lincoln and Nottingham.

Convener: MRS. G. A. LEWIS.

Hon. Sec.: MRS. GAMBLE.

The Committee has met twice during the past year. At the first meeting held at Derby, it was decided that, instead of having one place as a centre, meetings should be held at each place represented on the Regional Committee, in turn. The next meeting was held at Lincoln.

West Midland: Birmingham, Burton-on-Trent, Coventry, Leicester, Malvern, North Staffordshire and Wolverhampton.

Convener: MRS. EMANUEL.

Hon. Sec.: MISS LOCOCK.

Three meetings have been held, and there has been considerable interchange of opinion as to the best methods of keeping up a lively interest among Branch members. It has been found most convenient to meet at Birmingham. Wolverhampton has a *Luncheon* Club; and the work of cinema enquiry has been actively carried on at Coventry, Leicester, Wolverhampton, Malvern and North Staffordshire. Most of the Branches reported on Lodgings for Women.

Northern: Carlisle, Middlesbrough, Northumberland, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Stockton.

Convener: MRS. CRESSWELL.

Hon. Sec.: MISS BALLS.

The Regional Committee was formed in November, 1931, and since then two meetings have been held at which reports of the Branches were given. At Carlisle, assistance has been given in the reconditioning of houses and in running a Mental Welfare Occupational Centre. At Middlesbrough and Stockton special interests has been taken in Cinema problems, and a Conference was held at Middlesbrough. Stockton assisted in Recreation Centres for the unemployed.

North-Eastern: Bradford, Bridlington, Harrogate, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Scarborough, Sheffield, Spenborough, York.

Convener: DR. STACEY CLEMINSON.

Hon. Sec.: MRS. ANGELO RAINE.

This Committee has met four times during the year.

1. A *Luncheon* meeting at Aberdeen.
2. A Meeting at Leeds, when The New Children's Bill and Children's Courts were discussed, and during the afternoon Sir Montagu Burton's Model Factory was inspected. It is a mile square and 6,000 people are employed there.

Notice was given that a new Branch had been formed at Scarborough, and the Hon. Secretary of the N. Eastern Regional Committee attended a meeting there, to help to draw up the Rules and make suggestions with regard to the working of the Branch.

3. A special Drawing-room Meeting was held in Cleckheaton in May by kind invitation of Mrs. Sugden. Lady Nunburnholme and Dr. Stacey Cleminson addressed this meeting, and the new Spensborough Branch was formed with Mrs. Sugden as Convener and President.

4. A well attended meeting was held at Sheffield, when a special speaker gave an address on "Women serving on County, Urban and Rural District Councils" in the morning; in the afternoon a conference on Cinema Problems was arranged. Dr. Potts and the Hon. Eleanor Plumer were the speakers, with the Bishop of Sheffield in the Chair, and it was attended by the Sheffield Watch Committee, Cinema Managers, Clergy and representatives of other organisations. It is encouraging to hear that all the Branches are most regular in their attendance at the Regional Committee meetings. They are keenly interested in Cinema problems, Housing and Slum Clearance, Preventive Work, and special problems in their own towns.

North Western (including N. Wales): Barrow-in-Furness, Liverpool, Birkenhead, Llangollen, Manchester, Oldham and Southport.

Convener: MRS. CAWLEY.

Hon. Sec.: MISS TAYLOR.

Four meetings have been held, two in Manchester, one in Llangollen and one in Liverpool, and all were well attended. Correspondents were appointed for Lancaster and Rochdale: Mrs. Pollard and Mrs. Tweedale. It had been thought desirable to have a set subject for discussion at these meetings, and "The Cinema" was chosen for this purpose. All the Branches have held "Cinema" meetings.

Southern: Farnham, Guildford, Haslemere and Portsmouth.

Convener: MRS. GILLET.

Hon. Sec.: MRS. BERNARD WILLIAMS.

Three meetings have been held: (1) at Newlands Corner, Guildford, by kind invitation of Mrs. St. Loe Strachey, (2) at Haslemere by kind invitation of Mrs. Muir and (3) at Southsea. Portsmouth asked that the meetings might be held at each place in rotation. Farnham had held a meeting at the Girls' Grammar School when Miss Ditmas, of the Students Careers Association, gave an address on "Prospects in the Nursing Profession." Haslemere had

tried the experiment of having reports read by representatives on the various Sectional Committees, instead of outside speakers, so that members might be kept more in touch with current events at Headquarters. All the Branches have held Cinema meetings.

South Eastern: Brighton and Hove, Bromley, Croydon, Eastbourne, Hastings & St. Leonards, Maidstone, Mortlake with East Sheen, Tunbridge Wells and Worthing (with a total membership of approximately 3,500).

Convener: MRS. WILSON POTTER.

Hon. Sec.: MISS GREENWOOD.

The South Eastern is now a triennial contributor to the International Council of Women instead of quinquennial. Three meetings have been held: for reasons of economy, all in London. In addition to the usual lectures, addresses, study circles and propaganda work, the Committee has been concerned principally with four subjects—Nursery Schools, Unemployment, Cinema Rota and Luncheon Clubs. Croydon and Brighton are hoping to start nursery schools, and a lecture that was given by Mrs. Bruce Glasier on "The Work of the Margaret Macmillan Open-air Nursery Schools" was repeated for the Junior Branch at the Municipal Secondary School for Girls. At the Tunbridge Wells Girls County School, Lady Matthews spoke on "The Cinema and the Powers controlling Picture Houses and the Presentation of Films" at a large meeting, which was attended by the Headmistress and staff and also the Headmaster of the Skinners School, many parents and others. They have 42 names on their Cinema Rota. At Croydon, in November, Dame Beatrice Hudson Lyall addressed the women at the Parish Church Service. This was the first time a woman had addressed a meeting in the Church. The Hastings and St. Leonards Branch organised, in co-operation with the churches and local societies working for "Peace," a most successful mass meeting on "Disarmament" on November 11th; over 1,000 people attended.

South - Western: Andover, Bournemouth, Bournemouth Junior, East Dorset, Salisbury and South Dorset.

Convener: LADY HORT.

Hon. Sec.: MISS MARGARET SMITH.

This Committee has held three meetings, at which the Branches were well represented and gave interesting reports. The first and last meetings were held at Southampton (although there is no Branch there), and several interested people were invited and attended the meetings. It was hoped in this way to get a nucleus from which to form a Branch. The Cinema has engaged the attention of

the Committee during the year, and a resolution has been sent to the Cinema Sectional Committee, asking them to frame and issue a questionnaire for the use of Branch members who have joined Rotas to visit Cinemas.

On the invitation of the Committee, a member of the Winchester Women Citizens Association attended the meeting held at Southampton in May, and gave a report of the work done by the Association.

Western Regional: Bath, Bristol, Cheltenham, Gloucester and Torquay.

Convener: MISS E. H. SMITH.

Hon. Sec.: MISS I. STIRLING.

Three meetings have been held during the year: in March Lady Trustram Eve spoke at Bristol on the work done by the Branches, and emphasised the need for keeping in close touch with Headquarters, thus preserving the close and essential union of the Branches with the parent stem. Later Lady Trustram Eve spoke on "Voluntary Service", and gave an interesting account of what the National Council of Women has done to stimulate service to the community. Mr. Mills, Secretary of the Western Regional Broadcasting Council, gave an address on Broadcast Adult Education, and mentioned ways in which he thought it might be of use to the Branches of the N.C.W. The meeting adjourned for tea during an interval, which gave a valuable opportunity for members from the different Branches to meet and exchange experiences on the work.

SCOTTISH STANDING COMMITTEE.

MISS TURCAN, Hon. Secretary of the Scottish Standing Committee, gave a report on the year's work.

The Scottish Standing Committee differs from the Regional Committee in having representatives of National Societies in its Membership. It is gratifying to report that in addition to those already sending representatives there are two fresh organisations which have been added to the list within recent months, and there is the prospect of further applications.

Miss Horsburgh, Member of Parliament for Dundee, and Mrs. Helen Shaw, Member for Renfrew, accepted the invitation to become Hon. Members of the Committee.

The Scottish Standing Committee is represented in the following organizations:— Scottish National Development Council and the Scottish Association for Mental Welfare.

Certain of the Scottish Branches were honoured by a visit from the President of the N.C.W. The Edinburgh Branch was extremely anxious to have a visit from Lady Eve, and the other branches whose arrangements permitted were very glad to avail themselves of the opportunity of meeting the President. In Edinburgh the Lord Provost and Magistrates very kindly gave a reception to those doing Social work, not only in the City but in other parts of Scotland; there was also an afternoon meeting for Branch Members. Perth and Stirling combined in a reception to Lady Eve.

The majority of the Branches sent full answers to the Questionnaire on Lodging Houses for Women, and at the present time the Standing Committee is in communication with the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes with the object of collecting information as to accommodation for migratory women and families.

The conditions of Employment of Bus Conductresses is at the present moment being observed.

Children's Bill.

At the January meeting, as the text of the Children's Bill had just been issued, some points in it were explained by Ex-Bailie Kerr and Miss M. G. Cowan. It was left to the officials of the Standing Committee to take any action they deemed advisable during the discussion of the Bill. On 1st February, the Edinburgh Branch, co-operating with the E.W.C.A. and the Edinburgh J.O.C., organised a Conference on the Bill. This was largely attended. The general findings of that Conference as embodied in a Memorandum were circulated. The Conference Committee asked the Standing Committee to organize deputations, to lay before the Secretary for Scotland and the Scottish Members of Parliament the amendments contained in the Memorandum. Lady Cassillis and Miss Tancred saw Colonel More at the House of Commons and got much valuable advice from him as to procedure and points. The meeting in the House of Commons was eventually arranged by Sir Patrick Ford. The two deputations were received on 1st March, and the deputation to the Members was introduced by Lady Steel Maitland, who was accompanied by Miss J. C. C. Macdonald, Miss Hilda Somerville, Mrs. Liddle, Girls Guildry, and Miss E. de la Cour. Miss M. G. Cowan and Miss Mackenzie, Atholl House, Glasgow, spoke on the main points.

When the Trade Mission from Scotland to Canada was about to set out, the Convener communicated with Lady Aberdeen, who very kindly supplied Miss Bruce of the Highland Home Industries with letters of introduction to prominent members of the Canadian N.C.W.

The Donaldson Liner "Letitia," which during the later days

of the voyage was transformed into a floating exhibition, received on arrival at Montreal a tremendous welcome from the Canadian people, among whom were many of our Canadian Council.

Miss Bruce, Secretary, Highland Home Industries, on her return attended a meeting of the Scottish Standing Committee and gave a graphic description of the business done and the welcome accorded to the Trade Mission.

Police Sub-Committee.

This Committee were very gratified at the announcement that there was to be an increase in the number of women in the Glasgow Police force, bringing the number up to 15 instead of 11. Some of the women are employed in the C.I.D., and others as typists and telephonists, thus releasing men for other work and incidentally accustoming the personnel and the public to the presence of women in police offices.

Statutory Regulations for the employment of Policewomen have not yet been issued by the Scottish Office, but at the Police Council of September 22nd, draft regulations for Policewomen were before the Police Council as promised by the Scottish Office.

Cinema Sub-Committee.

The activities of the Scottish Cinema sub-Committee throughout the year have been chiefly concerned with the appeal, sent out along with a Memorandum from the British Board of Film Censors to the Scottish Local Licensing Authorities, to put into force in their respective areas, conditions similar to those in force in the London County Council area, for the exhibition of Cinematograph Films.

We are still awaiting replies from many of the Local Authorities before attempting to tabulate results.

Aberdeen Branch.

Aberdeen Branch reports that lectures were given during the year by Miss Jean Thompson, B.Com. Estate Manager for Rotherham Corporation, and by Miss Spence Allan of the Department of Health for Scotland.

Two petitions have been laid before the Aberdeen Town Council within the past few months:

- (1) Requesting that more stringent measures be taken to prevent children gaining access to slaughterhouses in the city.
- (2) Urging that lavatory accommodation in specified slum areas be speedily improved.

The Aberdeen Voluntary Housing Trust Ltd., is largely the outcome of persistent agitation, and untiring endeavours by individual members of the N.C.W. who are now on the Committee of

the Trust. The scheme is intended to make possible the reconditioning of old property as tenements, and to let at rents not exceeding 6/6 a week.

Dundee.

Dundee records its pleasure at the election of Miss Horsburgh as one of its M.P.'s. She has undertaken to further the interests of Women and Children whilst in Parliament.

Edinburgh.

For Edinburgh 1932 has been a year of change. The Countess of Cassillis, President, has resigned, and the Lady Ruth Balfour, M.D., has consented to become her successor.

The Constitution has been revised, and a Representative Council has been formed. A Conference on the Children's Bill was arranged in conjunction with the Edinburgh Women Citizen's Association, and the Edinburgh Juvenile Organisations Committee. The sequel to this meeting has already been reported on.

Glasgow.

The Glasgow Branch co-operated with the Association for the Preservation of Rural Scotland in holding an exhibition in the Glasgow School of Art.

The exhibition was opened by the Secretary of State for Scotland. The exhibits consisted of interesting photographs of good modern housing, well planned roads and bridges, as well as models, materials for roofing, possible arrangements of petrol pumps and other practical object lessons. One exhibit of particular interest was rugs of Celtic design made by the fisher girls of Harris in the slack season.

At the February meeting the film "A Crofter's Life in Shetland" was shown by Miss Jenny I. Brown, M.A., who is the first Scotswoman to take up this new career in educational film work.

The Executive sent a letter to each Associated Society asking for their consideration of a Draft Resolution that might be sent to the Cleansing Department of the Corporation, deprecating the present method of refuse collecting, and suggesting the installation of the Dual Bin System, which had proved successful in maintaining a high standard of street cleanliness in Continental cities. The members of the Executive Committee were of the opinion that the benefit accruing from the increased improvement in the cleanliness of the streets of Glasgow would amply compensate for the money expended on the installation. Many of the Associated Societies felt that the financial stringency of the present time made the proposal of such an innovation inopportune, and it was agreed to go no further with this in the meantime.

Greenock records the disbanding of the Junior Branch, but as many of the members have joined the Senior Branch, and are willing to carry on their former activities in the town, the interest is still maintained. It is a great pleasure to mention that the women of Greenock presented a diamond watch bracelet to our Vice-Convener, Ex-Bailie Isabelle Kerr, to mark their appreciation of her pioneer work as their first Woman Councillor and Magistrate.

North Ayrshire has devoted much time and thought to the subject of the planning of houses suitable for working families, and they laid their views before a large Local Town Council.

Perth shows differing interests. During the late celebration of the Scott Centenary the Perth Branch enacted scenes from the Lay of the Last Minstrel, but there has been more serious work done and the Secretary has reported as follows:—

“The most important contribution by the Branch in the last year has been the carrying out of the intention to help in the Housing Difficulty by the repairing and reconditioning of old houses which are structurally sound. The Perth Branch was mother to a scheme called ‘Better Homes Limited’ and the members have shown great interest in the venture, by taking shares and helping in different ways to add to the funds. One property with seven tenants is the only purchase so far, and improvements have been carried out on that. After the initial interest of the public had subsided, a somewhat dull period ensued, but there are signs that the work is being appreciated and the members are very thankful to say that money is beginning once more to come in, giving hope that quite shortly they will be able to purchase an adjoining property. While destruction and construction of houses are necessary, there is a middle way of mending, in which they think such an organisation as the N.C.W. can help! In pursuance of this object the Film ‘The Faith in Action’ was shown, and an address given by the Rev. H. Y. Boyd of the St. Pancras Housing Society.

St. Andrews.

In the autumn of 1931 the Committee decided to make a special effort to strengthen the Branch by increasing the Membership, inducing more local organisations to affiliate, and by holding meetings of special interest during the winter and spring.

The Committee undertook the distribution of literature explaining the work and aim of the N.C.W. along with a letter written by the President, Miss McCutcheon, and as a result 31 new members have been enrolled, almost doubling the membership.

The Branch has been responsible for the maintenance of a Girls' Club, which is run by a whole time worker. The Club has a membership of about 70, is well attended and is doing useful work.

The Stirling and District Branch. The Hon. Secretary of this Branch has been asked herself to report on the very special piece of work in which the Branch has taken so much interest, namely The Thistle Property Trust Ltd.

INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS IN BRANCH WORK.

Mrs. Billingham (Guildford) described a reading and recreation room for unemployed men which had been opened and run by the Branch. A warm comfortable room had been procured free of charge, on the conditions that the men kept it clean, there should be no political propaganda, and that there should always be a responsible woman in charge. The local Labour Exchange and Unemployed Men's Committee sent representatives to the meetings and co-operated. The men were very shy at first, but after the third week the room was full and a Sports' Committee was formed and various matches played against other local teams. Later, the Sports Committee took over the management of the Room, but unfortunately this proved to be an unwise step as the Room was not kept clean and eventually had to be closed. It is hoped however to re-open it on different lines with a work shop, etc., next winter.

Mrs. Bence (Bath) reported on a very successful clothing scheme for the Unemployed which the N.C.W. had started in Bath. A large room in the centre of the City was lent free of charge and free transport given. Excellent response was received to the appeal for helpers, and a rota of 20-30 was enrolled to take in the gifts of clothes and interview applicants sent from the Labour Exchange. The Mayor visited the Room and over 3,500 garments were given away to unemployed, maternity cases, children going into sanatoria, etc., and all money received was expended in the purchase of new clothes. All expenses were defrayed by local friends. This scheme helped greatly to stimulate interest in the N.C.W. Branch.

Miss Milman (Eastbourne) said that for the first time in Eastbourne last winter there had been a good deal of unemployment, and the Branch felt that it would like to help in organising some relief; £267 was collected in a fortnight and this was expended on food, clothes, etc., help in kind only being given. The British Legion co-operated and passed on specially hard cases deserving help, while the Eastbourne Corporation granted allotments to 40 men. The men paid half the cost of the tools, seeds, etc., being given, and the men have done very well. Other bodies assisting

in this scheme were the Women's Free Church Council, Scottish Women's Association and the Young Wives' Fellowship. Next winter the work is to be carried on and made more centralized, while an appeal for further funds is to be made by the Mayor.

Mrs. Tomlins (Wolverhampton) described a very successful luncheon club which the N.C.W. Branch had started in Wolverhampton. She said it was a very easy thing to run and had very good results. In October last year several N.C.W. members were anxious to have lectures on various economic problems, and a well known economist living in the town offered his services. It was decided to hold a luncheon and a notice was sent out on the ordinary Branch meeting card. Over 70 members came to the first one, at the second a month later over 90 came, and at the third there were over 100, no money being spent on advertising. It was then decided to launch a luncheon club, which is called the Wolverhampton Women's Luncheon Club. It attracts many women such as the bridge player, golf player, and the "comfortable" woman who would not otherwise join a serious minded Society such as the National Council of Women. The subscription is 2/6d. per year to join the Club, while luncheon tickets are 2/6 to N.C.W. members and 3/- to others. Many women have joined the Luncheon Club, and from that joined the N.C.W., with the result of an increased membership of over 40.

Miss Tweedy (Torquay) reported on a new piece of work which the Torquay Branch is doing, namely, running a speakers' class, which has increased the Branch membership considerably. The classes are conducted on the lines of a public meeting with Agenda, apologies for Absence, Minutes, etc., and a different Chairman for each meeting. One member is asked to act as "critique" at each meeting, and she takes into consideration vocabulary, enunciation, movement of hands, sense of humour, etc. One might think that this would be an extremely difficult matter, but it has worked very well and members ask for even more criticism. The programme consists of debates, discussions, prepared speeches, stories, personal experiences, recitations and readings. In several cases mothers and daughters have both joined the class, which goes to prove that it does not appeal to one generation only.

Miss Hill (Norwich) said that at the Branch Annual Meeting last year they decided to launch a campaign to increase the membership to 500, in celebration of the 12th anniversary of the formation of the Branch. Each member pledged herself to introduce one new one and notice was sent round to all other members not at the meeting. This was followed by a post card a few weeks later, enquiring the name or names of the new members to be introduced. These post-cards served as reminders and also saved a

lot of secretarial work. Progress was reported at each meeting, and nine months after the scheme had been launched 500 members were on the roll. Miss Hill explained that they had decided to make the effort at exactly the right moment, when there was a definite object, i.e., the anniversary of the formation of the Branch, with which to associate the effort.

Lady Maud Rolleston (Nottingham) gave a short account of the very successful luncheon club started by the Branch in Nottingham. They felt that the club attracted all kinds of persons, and also a good many men, which went to prove that the work being done by the Branch was of local interest and benefit. The charge for the lunch is 2/- only, to enable those who cannot afford more to attend.

Mrs. Murray (Stirling) described the Thistle Property Trust, which is a slum clearance scheme, organised and started by the Branch. It was realised from the first that if the scheme were to be effective both men and women must co-operate, and a Committee was formed in 1926 of N.C.W. members and their men folk. Money was raised by £1 shares, Loan Stock, etc. The re-conditioning of houses was carried on while the residents were still living in them. Success is due (i) to the firm but sympathetic management on Octavia Hill lines by women house property managers, and (ii) garden properties. A wash house with bath rooms was built, and a garden containing a children's playground, garden plots, etc., was made by the tenants themselves, while a small tower was restored to make a club room for the men.

Lady Hort (Andover) said that a good many members of the Branch had been upset by the number of foot paths which were being closed. They felt that the young people should be interested in this question, and a meeting was accordingly held at the Grammar School. Lady Nunburnholme gave an address, and it is hoped to get many of the girls to join the Branch.

Miss Locock (Birmingham) reported that several of the Midland Branches, e.g. Leicester, Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton, etc., had special Cinema Committees and rotas of visitors who report their impressions of the films shown. Birmingham has issued a questionnaire for film visitors, which was widely circulated and aroused much interest. According to the reports received, the Local Authorities are on the whole favourable to the adoption and carrying out of the Home Office Regulations. The Birmingham Enquiry Committee has several excellent speakers who are always ready to address meetings.

Mrs. Turner (Harrogate) reported that this Branch runs a Women's Service Bureau and has a rota of women who give their time and services voluntarily to others who cannot afford to pay for help, e.g. in making jam, looking after children, overseeing, etc.

RESOLUTIONS.

PASSED AT

NORWICH 4th, 5th and 6th OCTOBER, 1932.

The Disarmament Conference.

That whilst expressing its appreciation of the efforts made by the British Government towards the limitation of armaments and in the cause of peace, the National Council of Women profoundly regrets that the resolution summarising the measure of agreement reached in the first period of the Disarmament Conference and adopted by it on July 22nd, does not envisage adequate decisions on major issues and does not provide for that large and immediate reduction in world armaments which was foreshadowed in President Hoover's proposals and which represents the insistent demand of the peoples of the world.

It believes that the continued failure to fulfil the pledges given to the nations disarmed under the Peace Treaties of 1919 is creating a situation of grave menace, both to peace and to economic recovery, and strongly urges the British Government to accept substantially the United States' proposal and to announce its support for (a) the general abolition of the weapons forbidden to four countries under the Peace Treaties (military aircraft, submarines, warships above certain tonnages, tanks and heavy guns, preparation for chemical war); (b) comprehensive limitation and reduction of other armaments and expenditure thereon; and (c) the suppression of the private manufacture of arms.

Nationality of Married Women.

That the National Council of Women welcomes the statement made on behalf of the British Government at the 1931 Assembly of the League of Nations that it is the policy of the British Government 'that all disabilities of married women in matters of nationality should be removed and that, in so far as nationality is concerned, a married woman should be in the same position as a man—married or unmarried, or any single woman.'

The National Council of Women therefore urges the Government to introduce and pass into law the Nationality of Married Women Bill, which gives effect to this policy, and further to propose to the other British Dominions that they should agree to a similar policy.

The N.C.W. desires to express its appreciation of the fact that it was the British Government which made the proposal adopted by the 1931 Assembly of the League of Nations,

whereby the reconsideration of the Hague Nationality Convention appears on the Agenda of the 1932 Assembly, and to urge the Government to take such action at this Assembly as will ensure that the question of the nationality of married women shall be re-opened.

1. Sexual Offences Against Young Children.

The National Council of Women of Great Britain records its concern at the large number of cases of indecent assaults, indecent exposure, and similar offences against young children, and expresses the strongest disapproval of a system which results in men, convicted of such unnatural and indefensible offences, being dealt with in a haphazard fashion by the infliction of fines or short sentences of imprisonment.

The Council is of opinion that such sexual offences present a special problem, necessitating special legislation with a view to their suppression.

Many offences of this nature are due to some mental or physical abnormality on the part of the offender; the Council therefore calls upon the Government to carry through all its stages a Bill providing that, in all cases where children under thirteen are concerned, the offender should be remanded, after conviction and before sentence, for examination by a medical practitioner of special experience in mental diseases and abnormality. Subject to such report, the Court should have power to order detention in a suitable institution, followed by remedial mental or medical treatment.

The Council further asks that such legislation shall also provide, by amendments to the appropriate Acts, that in cases where the offender has three or more convictions for gross indecency, indecent exposure or indecent assault, he shall be deemed to be a 'persistent offender' and shall be committed to be detained in a suitable institution 'during his Majesty's pleasure.'

2. Criminal Law Amendment Acts.

That the National Council of Women welcomes the action taken by His Majesty's Government in introducing legislation to give effect to the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Offences against Young Persons regarding the protection of the victims of such offences. It urges, however, that legislation should be brought forward without delay to deal with the amendment of the Criminal Law, which is long overdue.

3. Housing.

That the National Council of Women should urge Local Authorities and Public Utility Societies to build simpler dwellings, of more varied types, which could be let at lower rents than those now generally prevailing for new dwellings.

4. Distressed State of Agriculture.

That this Meeting, feeling acutely that the present distressed state of agriculture is a factor of vital importance against the economic recovery of the whole country, urges that steps should be taken by the National Council of Women to enlist the interest of townswomen in favour of our own farm and garden produce and so to ensure closer co-operation between consumer and producer: it further considers that a more complete system of marking imported food stuffs is essential.

5. Women Police.

That the National Council of Women welcomes the encouragement given to the movement for Women Police by the issue of Statutory Regulations and the promotion of a woman officer to the rank of Superintendent in the Metropolitan Police Force. It further urges the Secretaries of State for England and Scotland to negotiate with one of the larger provincial forces in both England and Scotland for the establishment in that force of a Training Department for Women Police, under a woman supervisor, in order that Chief Constables may be assured that the women they select will receive such training as will enable them to undertake the highly skilled work, in connection with offences committed against and by women and children, for which police-women are specially needed.

6. Prison Reform.

The National Council of Women urges upon H.M. Government the importance of a re-organisation of the prison system, including a reduction in the number of hours spent in the cells and the introduction of a new system of release on parole; the Council welcomes the appointment of the Committee to enquire into Prison Labour and urges the Branches and Affiliated Societies to give all possible assistance to that Committee of Enquiry.

7. Remand Homes as Observation Centres.

The National Council of Women advocates that Remand Homes should be equipped and staffed as Observation Centres and urges that in connection both with Juvenile Courts and Remand Homes arrangements be made for the physical and psychological treatment of young offenders, such arrangements to include full use of all the facilities afforded by clinics, education and health authorities and the voluntary organisations providing such services.

8. Mechanical Haulage in Pits.

The National Council of Women deplores the fact that 44,500 horses and ponies are still employed in our mines and strongly supports their claim to better working conditions. It

learns with great interest and pleasure that over 500 mines have dispensed entirely with horse and pony haulage in favour of mechanical methods of haulage and conveyance underground. It urges the Government to take steps to ensure the gradual introduction of mechanical haulage and conveyance to take the place of horses and ponies in all mines, as has been done successfully in Scotland and in the Lancashire coalfields.

9. Biological Teaching in Schools.

The National Council of Women in Conference assembled concurs in the view expressed by the Prime Minister that 'there appear to be good reasons for drawing public attention at once to the recommendations of the Committee' on the Education of Biologists. The National Council of Women especially supports the view that 'an adequate standard of intellectual equipment will not be obtained until biology is definitely recognised in the schools as a cultural subject' and that 'biology should be brought to the notice of every boy and none should leave school without some knowledge of it.'

The National Council of Women further draws the attention of all concerned with education to the undoubted fact that a knowledge of the life sciences is as important for girls as for boys, and strongly urges upon teachers that biology should be included as a cultural subject in all schools.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

1. Article XIII. Resolutions.

That, in view of the fact that the resolutions for the Annual Council Meeting are now chosen by ballot, it be no longer necessary to obtain the support of two Branches and of two Affiliated Societies.

2. Article XIV. Nominations.

Line 5: That at the end of this line the words "at least" be inserted to ensure that Nomination papers shall be sent out at least two months before the Annual Meeting, and so to bring the constitution into line with the present practice.

Line 7: That this read: "Nomination papers . . . shall be returned to the Secretary within five weeks of their receipt" instead of "within three weeks."

FAWCETT COLLECTION

**NORWICH,
1898 and 1932.**

The following article is a short personal impression of the Conference by Miss Mary Gardner, who also attended the Conference in 1898, and has been a member of the N.C.W. for many years.

As one of the diminishing band of those who have been in touch with our National Council from the beginning, I have followed with much interest the papers on early memories.

Like the last writer, Mrs. Gow, my first introduction to the National Union of Women Workers as it was called at its inauguration and for many years afterwards, was at the first meeting at Nottingham, in 1895, under the presidency of Mrs. Creighton. I was then night superintendent in a hospital, therefore could only attend the morning sessions, but what I heard attracted and interested me deeply. In 1897 I was appointed to my first hospital matronship at Norwich, and when in the following year the annual conference of the N.U.W.D. was held there, I welcomed it with much pleasure. I took a serial ticket, attended as many meetings as possible, and became a member.

Though my life was for many years too busy for me to attend all the conferences, I have been present at a good many more since I retired. And when it was arranged that the Conference should take place again at Norwich this year, I gladly took the opportunity of re-visiting the beautiful old city where some of my happiest nursing years were spent.

When I try to recall that earlier conference for the purpose of comparison with the recent one, I am afraid I can remember few details. Thirty-four years is a long time and much has happened since then. But for a short paper detail is perhaps not required. I will try to give a general impression.

It was of course much smaller. There were I believe about four hundred visitors. At this year's conference there were seven hundred and fifty delegates and the total number, including the executive and non-delegate visitors, must have been not far short of one thousand. But the members of that first conference had something of the enthusiasm of pioneers. There was a sense of looking forward, of work to be done, and the confidence of achievement. Those were early days in the women's forward movement. The suffrage was not won until twenty years later. Woman suffrage was never formally adopted as a plank on the programme of the N.U.W.W., being regarded as too contentious a subject for a society including women workers of all shades of opinion. Never-

theless, can it be doubted that our National Council has played a part in the recognition of women as citizens?

But the general motive power which drew together and united the many and various women workers was the desire to help their fellows, especially the weak. One of the most moving addresses at that first Norwich Conference—the only one I am afraid which I can distinctly recall—was on the horrors of the fur-pulling trade, one of the worst of the sweated industries as regards conditions and pay. For the raising of the sweated workers which has taken place during the last generation, much is due to the efforts of the National Council of Women working outside Parliament.

Little points of contrast between the two conferences are to be found in the places of meeting. In 1898 we met for debate in the Lecture Hall of the Prince's St. Congregational Church and the civic reception was held in S. Andrew's Hall, the beautiful old monastic building which has been for so long a home of music. But with the increase in numbers the conference this year was held in S. Andrew's Hall, and the reception by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress at Norwich Castle. In one respect this was a disadvantage, though I suppose inevitable. The size and loftiness of S. Andrew's Hall made it difficult for a woman's voice—for any voice—to reach the limits of the building, even with the aid of microphone and amplifiers. It was like preaching in S. Paul's Cathedral. Probably the younger members found less difficulty than we older ones.

But no better setting for the reception could be found than the Castle. This magnificent building set on a hill in the midst of the city—once an ancient fortress, then a prison! now a museum, art gallery and civic centre—was ideal for the purpose. With one minor disadvantage, which was part of the picturesqueness and charm. A castle—a fortress—must be difficult of approach. So it was in this case. The narrow road winding up the Castle hill to the entrance along which carriages could only pass in single file made admission rather slow, and the getting away a matter of patience. But once inside we were most generously entertained, and there was so much of interest in art and antiquity, in fact too much for that evening; Norwich Castle requires a quiet leisurely visit, or many such.

The most memorable feature to me was the flood lighting of the keep, a very beautiful sight.

Our happy meeting concluded as usual with excursions on Friday, Oct. 7th, including a long motor drive to Sandringham and along the Norfolk coast, and conducted tours over the Cathedral and other buildings of mediaeval interest. There are few cities in England containing so much of ancient beauty and charm. What

kind of a heritage will our great industrial cities of to-day bequeath to the ages which follow?

The Norwich branch of the National Council of Women may feel proud of its standing. From the seed sown in 1898 has grown the third largest branch in the kingdom. It was at Norwich in 1898 that the suggestion was first made that the National Council of women would be a more fitting title for such an assembly than The National Union of Women Workers, and although for more than twenty years later the older title held its ground, in the end the present one of National Council prevailed.

MARY GARDNER.

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