

complished. The Executive Committee of which I have spoken in each Council generally arranges from time to time to have some general meeting or conference at which all these societies which join are represented. These give in a short account of their own particular work, and, in addition, a paper or papers are read by ladies who have been invited to discuss some special subject of general interest to the community. You will see that the mere fact of the different reports of work being carried on by many different sections of thought and brought before the public, in itself must tend to this unity of thought, sympathy, and purpose, of which we have been speaking. To begin with, it enables the public to acquire some knowledge of the work that is being done and you will know, ladies, how even in a comparatively small place people are often unaware of what is being done by the different societies and institutions. Surely that, in itself, is a very great benefit. But it is well for us that we should know what is being accomplished; it will draw out our sympathy; it will widen our charity to know of the noble work that is being accomplished by other bodies—bodies against which we may perhaps have had some prejudice; it will deepen our faith if we thereby learn that we can learn from as well as give to them. It is a wonderful lesson to ourselves and it sends us to our homes rejoicing to know how God is working by many and divers means for His own good end. It gives these institutions opportunities for bringing their various needs forward—their needs either for material help or for more workers; or it is the means of drawing into actual work some of the younger women who have not yet found their vocation, but who are stirred up by hearing what it is being done by others. Then it enables to be brought before the public any general need in the city or district—some general want which all citizens of the place are concerned in relieving, and which if they determine together shall be done, will undoubtedly be taken in hand by those who can meet such need. These are, I think, the chief benefits which come to any particular district through the establishment of such a Council. I cannot give you any hard and fast lines on which these Councils shall develop

They are intended to suit the needs of each place where they are set on foot, and if the Council has been formed by those who are working—by those who know the people and their needs, then it will doubtless fulfil its objects and will also further the great work of bringing us all nearer together.

These local Councils are represented on the National Council of Canada, which meets once a year in different places in the Dominion. It met last year at Ottawa. The different local councils, eight or nine in number, besides the nationally organized societies, were then represented. Ladies from different places read valuable papers, on subjects relating to their special work or on subjects of general interest. These National Councils have been formed not only in Canada and the United States, but in many countries in Europe and are intended to join an International Council which meets every five years, again extending the bond of a common sisterhood in work. You will see that there are vast possibilities in this work. There are doubtless dangers also for we are but human, and when we in this way gather together representatives of all sections of thought we know that there must be dangers, but we believe that this movement towards real unity—this coming to know one another better and to realize this common responsibility which is ours must tend for good both for ourselves individually and for the communities amongst which we live. And if we begin to think of some of the general subjects on which we can unite—some of the subjects in which all women of whatever church or denomination or section of the community may combine, surely there seem to be very many such subjects in which they are all deeply interested. First of all we must place the home. We all here agree that the home is woman's first mission. But what does that involve? Sometimes it is spoken of as if home duties meant a narrow life, a circumscribed life, but if we ask ourselves what home means to each of us—what it should mean to each of us—we shall see that it by no means involves a narrow life. If we ask ourselves each of us to think out what would be the ideal for ourselves, each in our own position in our own home, of what we could do and be, if we could rise to