

"Shall woman be allowed to fulfil her duty to humanity? That is the highest meaning of the woman question of the day. . . . The right to her own personal existence, proclaimed by Christianity, must be extended from the religious to the different provinces of social life. Our century is ready to lead the way in this respect. . . . The question is to assure to women—equality in the eyes of the law, possibility of complete intellectual development, a share in professional activities and in the fight against excess and crime. . . . It is however above all the question of making woman fit for her duties. The way is over thorns and briars, it is no path of comfort and ease, no dilettantes can walk along it. The recognition of the greater responsibilities of higher culture will alone give the key to the solving of this problem."

She finished by hoping that these meetings might give to all—"Muht des reinen Lebens"—"greater courage to lead a pure life."

The gathering was finished off with a concert consisting of music of women composers only and by a festive banquet, from which I had difficulty in tearing myself away to catch the midnight train to Zurich.

SWITZERLAND.

In Switzerland, if unselfish resolve and noble endeavor can bring about a union of differing nationalities, languages and religions, a successful Council will be formed, but there are many difficulties in the way. Meantime a committee of very enthusiastic men and women is working hard to have a really successful National Congress of Women at the Geneva Exhibition next summer.

I met a number of ladies belonging to this Committee at the house of Professor Louis Bridel in Geneva, who has done much to help forward the passing of a Married Woman's Property Act, and had a most interesting talk with them about their intentions and their difficulties. They are very hopeful that a National Council will be the natural outcome of this Congress, the more so as one piece of successful national work has just been accomplished.

A committee of representative women was formed at Berne to report to the Chicago Congress, but being unable to carry out their intention, they started to compile a complete statistical account of all the charities of Switzerland in which women are concerned, and have done thoroughly good united national work. The solidarité shown by the ladies has very much encouraged those who are working for greater unity between the different cantons. I was much impressed with the ladies whom I met in Geneva, Melle. Lasserre, president of the Union des Femmes; Mme. Chaponnière, Mlle. Camille Vidard, also Mr. and Mme. Bridel and others seemed to me most high-minded, generous souls, undertaking really serious work.

After our meeting we were sitting waiting for the 'Pak' to ferry us across to the other side of the river and watching the glorious outlines