

come and a response by the worthy and well beloved president, Fraulein Augusta Schmidt, a veteran leader, who is ably taking up the work cast on her by their noble pioneer, Louisa Otto, who died last year, and whose work was touchingly referred to on many occasions. Fraulein Schmidt is a large-minded and large-hearted woman, capable of guiding the destinies of the Council alike by intellect and by affection. Round her were gathered many earnest women—Frau Anna Simson, a staunch believer in the Council idea; Frau Hanna Bieber Boehm, the champion of social purity; Fraulein Ottilie Hoffman, the advocate of temperance; Frau V. Foster, a dainty personage, who proves to everybody's satisfaction that she can not only professionally assist her husband as oculist, but also adequately perform her duties as wife, mother and member of society. Last but not least I must mention the fair and stately Fraulein Helene Lange, the ideal "Germania," whose intellectual force, business capacity, large-mindedness and common sense are already bringing her into a leading position amongst German women. I am looking forward with especial pleasure to note the place she will take at the International Congress of '98. These and many others were present at the reception which merged into a most genial supper, when toasts were given and healths were drunk, and "Hoch soll sie leben" was sung with all possible German Gemüthlichkeit, amidst the clinking of glasses and other signs of friendliness. Serious business was begun the next morning at 9 o'clock, and in the course of the next few days such subjects as the following were discussed: The legal position of women in the family, the work of Women's Unions in the future, the effect of the woman's movement on family life, and several educational subjects. This latter is the only direction in which these German women have as yet ventured to act practically; as the discussion of political and social questions might bring them into collision with the police! They are working hard for the higher education of women, and both kindergarten and gymnasien or girls' high schools were subjects of papers. In like manner does the Council fight shy, on the one hand, of all labor topics and of trade organizations which might smack of socialism, and, on the other hand, of religious societies, which might bring them into conflict with the all-dominant Lutheran pastor, who does not permit much independence of action on the part of the women of his congregation, I assure you. This German National Council of Women has many a difficult problem to face before their members may be said to have gained even the standing ground from which we here look forth upon the world around us. Our Teutonic sisters are, however, second to none in their earnestness and enthusiasm, their eloquence and their business capacity.

The Empress Frederick takes a deep interest in the Council work and was present when Helene Lange gave her able address on "Some new points of view on the woman's movement."

I give you a few sentences from her address which may help you to seize her standpoint.