



I.O.D.E. in Convocation

Front Row (from the left): Mrs. John Bruce, National Treasurer; Mrs. Langstaff, Pres. L.O.D.B.E. in America; Mrs. Murray Clarke, National Organizing Secy.; Mrs. Henry Croft, Provincial Pres. of British Columbia; Mrs. A. E. Gooderham, Pres. National Chapter in Canada, Toronto; Mrs. Barnard, wife of Lieutenant-Governor of B.C.; Mrs. Auden, National Secy.; Miss McGaffin, Asst. Nat. Secy.; Miss Lilla Lowndes, Regent Allies Chapter.

Second Row: Mrs. Martingale, Regent Bastion Chap.; Mrs. A. H. McNeill, Organizing Secy. B.C.; Mrs. G. A. Smith, Nat. Educational Secy.; Mrs. Spence, Regent Calgary; Mrs. Hasell, Prov. Secy. B.C.; Mrs. W. J. Wright, Winnipeg; Mrs. Colin Campbell, Prov. Pres. Manitoba; Mrs. Cecil Cookson, Echoes Secy., Victoria; Mrs. Dennis Cox, Prov. Treas. B.C.; Mrs. A. F. Griffiths, Regent Municipal Chapter, Victoria.

Third row: Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. John Williams, Miss J. Cresse, Standard Bearer, B.C. (face hidden); Mrs. David Miller, Sec. Municipal Chap., Victoria; Mrs. Drummond, Regent Coronation Chapter; Mrs. George White, Mrs. Macdougald, Regent Municipal Chapter, Montreal; Mrs. Wolff, Regent Municipal Chapter, Quebec; Mrs. Charles Mills, Mme. Gouvreau, Regent Municipal Chapter, New Westminster; Mrs. R. C. Boyle, Vice-Pres. Prov. Chap. B.C.; Mrs. J. Thomson, Mrs. J. H. Senkler, Mrs. Belson, Vice-Pres. Prov. Chapter, B.C.

WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING

THAT mis-interpreter of womankind, Robert W. Chambers, is announced by the publishers of a well-known magazine as the creator of a new defamation of character known as "The Restless Sex." No doubt there are women in Canada stupid enough to regard this nightmare as a real contribution to literature. One feels justified in asking—what has modern woman ever done in the way of sinfulness that she must be visited with this species of parasite? Of course there are various kinds of morbid parasitic growths in nature. There is, for instance, the ivy which adorns many a tree-trunk; and there is the potato-bug. From what we know of Robert W. Chambers' literary exploitations of the other sex, he is at least not an ivy. He strikes us as being a pernicious example of the sort of writer who could not write without the sex-opathic motif. He knows so much unscientifically about sex that he is almost totally ignorant of womanhood. This species of prey upon the morbid side of the other sex is a melancholy and hopeless relic of the Philistine arrogance which long ago in certain of the male of the species humanus invented the notion that women were in the same category as bugs and butterflies to be

investigated, classified and put on record. The analogy fails when we observe that Chambers does not use a microscope but merely a bold bad eye with a cataract creeping over it. He does not see womanhood. He is eternally excited over sex which has just about run its course in any sort of decent literature and survives only in the yellows. There are great novelists who have scrutinized the other sex. Thomas Hardy, for instance, could come perilously near the lewd in his master portrayal of such a character as Tess. Hall Caine did the same thing with less virtuosity in *Glory Quayle*. And a generation earlier Nathaniel Hawthorne created a similar stir in his masterpiece, *The Scarlet Letter*. But these writers had the merit of at least a real knowledge of womanhood without a mere study in something between neuritis and erotics. We presume that "The Restless Sex" refers to modern women in their efforts at sex-emancipation. But we should be very sorry to think that any of the doings of women as recorded in this once-a-month Woman's Section of the Canadian Courier has any relation to the literature of Robert W. Chambers.—The Editor.

ONE great difference between woman's work and man's in the field of sociology is that women do a great deal of the investigating first and talk about it afterwards. This remark is called forth by a perusal of what happened at the 23rd Congress of the National Council of Women held recently in Winnipeg. Those women from end to end of this country came together to tell the rest of the country what has been on the tips of their tongues and their finger-ends in actual experience. Women don't meet nowadays to pass a lot of pretentious, rose-tinted resolutions, sip chattering tea, flash inordinate

The National Council of Women

jewellery and indulge in mid-Victorian accents. Those who prefer these methods of expression are welcome to use them. But the majority of the speakers at the National Council had more to say than they had time or occasion to express, because they had already gone about—woman's way—in the business of investigation. What they had to say was as practical, for the most part, as bringing up a baby.

The Council Congress was, as usual, under the baton of Mrs. T. H. Torrington, the universally esteemed president. Mrs. Torrington has been at the head of this great parliament of women for a long while. Her good works and wise counsels have become part of the great pioneer movement to give the women of Canada a bigger voice in the affairs of this country.

In our last woman's section we dealt at some length with the programme of the I. O. D. E. to be held in Victoria in the last week of May. Further

comment on this will be found on page 14 of this issue. It may take an expert in the study of woman's world to decide just where these two organizations begin and leave off in the work of woman in Canada. But there is no danger of overlapping. Each is inspired with a personnel of great workers, broad-minded, patriotic women who are able and willing to put their best brains at the service of the country. And there never was a time when the country needed that work so much.

As the Manitoba Free Press pointed out in an editorial on the Congress the brotherhood of man has been preached for a long time without much being done along that line to justify the preaching. So far as the Canadian Courier sees it the sisterhood of woman seems likely to achieve more practical results. Get the women into a unity and the men can't keep the world in strife. Let the women unite on what they want, so long as it is along reasonable lines of evolution, and they won't be long wanting it.

The National Council has emphasized the sisterhood of woman, not merely for the good of the sex but for the welfare of the country and the State.

Mrs. F. H. Torrington, once more elected President of the National Council.