

## GERMANY.

So far, I have only been able to report on the projected formation of National Councils. Now I have the joy of describing a National Council in full working order, viz., the National Council of Germany.

It is already almost two years old and is busy preparing for its second annual meeting. After seeing some of the office-bearers in Berlin and Leipzig, and after a short visit of devotion to the shrine of Germany's two greatest poets at Weimar, I had the privilege of attending a three days' meeting of an affiliated society to the National Council—the Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauenverein, at Frankfurt am Main. This Union is really the parent society of the National Council, or Bund Deutscher Frauenvereine, and was then celebrating its 18th biennial meeting. It has long been working in all possible directions for the welfare of women, and has branches in all the principal towns of the German Empire; but with unusual and never to be too highly commended generosity, this Society has stepped down from its unique position, and has not only joined the National Council, on the same footing as any small and insignificant union, but has handed over its chief work of many years to be carried out, as a national work, by the National Bund. When I was explaining to the President the difficulty which the ladies of Sweden felt about sinking their outstanding society to a level with other smaller ones, "Tell them" she said "tell them that we, with our large membership and year long experience have subordinated ourselves to a newly started society because we believe so thoroughly in the Council idea, and because we desire to make our work of many years on the laws of Germany affecting women and children into a truly national movement." This disinterestedness is, I fear, as rare as it is beautiful.

I ought to say a few words about this new code of laws, which is to serve for all the German Empire. The laws regarding women are in a very backward state in Germany, in such matters as the guardianship of children, married women's property, the want of power to will, and so on. These women have taken the laws which press most heavily on their sex, and are offering suggestive amendments to government, the mildest possible amendments, in the earnest hope that they will not be rejected without consideration.

Hitherto I have tried very hard to stick to my subject, and have consequently omitted many interesting incidents which might have lightened this discourse, but if I now digress and give an account of the meeting at Frankfurt. it is only because you will thereby get some idea of the noble women who are not only leaders of the Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauenverein, but also of the Bund to which it is affiliated.

I stayed at the Hotel Zum Weissen Schwan, where most of the delegates were quartered, so had an opportunity of being in the thick of everything and I received the utmost kindness from everybody. On the first evening, just as in our annual gatherings, there was a reception given by the Frankfurt ladies. On this occasion there were short addresses of wel-