

## Recording Secretary's Report.

MADAM PRESIDENT AND LADIES :

The Executive has much pleasure in submitting the Fourth Annual Report of the Local Council of Women of Toronto.

Since the report of May, 1896, the Executive has held sixteen regular meetings. There have been also six special and four quarterly meetings, making, with the annual meeting, a total of twenty-seven.

The most important of the special meetings was held in January, 1897, to consider the report of the sub-committee appointed to investigate the condition of women and children employed in shops and factories. It was then decided to invite two delegates from each of the Ontario Councils, to consult with the Executive of the Toronto Council, as to the best way of obtaining the desired legislation. This was accordingly done, with the result that all the reforms asked for were at once granted.

Good work has been accomplished by the committees formed to investigate the following subjects :

Shorter Working Hours for Women and Children.

Need of Legal Protection for Women and Children.

The Spread of Pure Literature.

Manual Training for Public Schools.

Manual Training Classes for Teachers.

Care of Eyes and Teeth of Children in Public Schools.

The Effect of the Immigration of Pauper Children on the Social Condition of Canada.

How to Provide Medical Aid and Nursing in Outlying Districts of Canada.

The Establishing of Public Baths and Wash-Houses.

The Formation of Reading Circles.

The Preventible Causes of Insanity.

This last subject was considered to be of such importance to the community that a special public meeting was arranged by the Council, at which Dr. Clark, of the Toronto Insane Asylum, kindly gave a black-board talk on "Insanity, its Causes Prevention and Cure."