



Dr. Alice Salomon, Germany



Her Excellency Lady Aberdeen, who has been re-elected President of the International Council of Women and the Quinquennial Congress.



Dr. Louise Martindale, England



Rev. Anna H. Shaw, U.S.A.



Mrs. Edwin Gray, Great Britain.



(Mrs.) May Wright Sewall, U.S.A.

## International Council of Women

BY KATHARINE REID

WHEN the delegates and visitors to the International Council of Women first entered the grounds of the University of Toronto, and looked upon their "meeting-houses," they must have felt an inspiration rise from the very fragrance of the newly mown grass. The day was clear, the foliage was full, and the huge gnarled trees with wide spreading branches stood about like giant sentinels guarding the precincts from the world without. The University looked like an architectural jewel set in an expanse of green sward, and against a sky of cobalt the towers and turrets and domes of the several fine buildings were clearly outlined. The scene was exhilarating. No accumulated dust of centuries deepened the shadows on the academic stone, but the freshness and beauty of it all spoke of life and energy, and hope and joy, and of a promising future if not of an historic past. It seemed symbolic of the great Council itself, which has just entered upon the twenty-first year of its existence, and reviews with satisfaction the difficulties of a short and struggling career, while it reaches forward to the accomplishment of its purpose—that of assisting to establish conditions that will secure the supremacy of the golden rule, and hasten the time when all will do unto others as they would wish to be done by.

No sooner had the delegates arrived than the scene became animated. Committee meetings were opened, and the business of the Council was at once launched. University women graduates in caps and gowns acted as ushers, and more than once their knowledge of moderns was called into requisition in directing the strangers through the intricate windings of the building to their destined committee rooms. It was not the tread of students or the words of sedate professors that sounded through the long corridors, but the accent of many a foreign tongue expressed in feminine tones.

The representation includes women of many ranks, conditions and lands. Vice-royalty with its ceremonial attendance, university graduates with enviable arrays of titles, women distinguished in art and science and literature, in the professions of law and medicine, in teaching and nursing and journalism, in horticulture and agriculture, in poultry raising and various other industries, as well as renowned philanthropists, are met together to consult upon the best ways and means of working—not for the promotion of superficial things that perish, but for principles which tend to the uplifting of humanity throughout the world.

Much care has been spent upon the decoration of the buildings, and the arrangements for convenience and comfort. Private offices are adequately equipped for the president, Lady Aberdeen, for the hon. corresponding secretary, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc., Ph.D., F.L.S., and for the secretary, Mrs. Willoughby Cummings. The rest room is wonderfully inviting, and the writing room cool and quiet. There are cut flowers everywhere on desks and tables, and palms are ensconced in many a recess and corner, and on the platforms. Oriental floor coverings and French-Canadian homespuns fulfil the double duty of beauty and usefulness, and flags of all the nations represented are clustered harmoniously upon the walls above the rich oak paneling. Convocation Hall, beautiful in itself, has a most effective decoration into which the arms and flags of the nations are skilfully woven with the motto of the Council.

"Canada! It is beautiful," one sweet voice affirmed, while the countenance of another was still more expressive than her kind words.

In presenting her address at the opening meeting in Convocation Hall on Wednesday evening, Lady Edgar, on behalf of the National Council of Canada extended a very warm welcome to the president, the Countess of Aberdeen, and to the delegates from the various countries. His Worship, Mayor Oliver, in reading the official address of welcome on behalf of the City of Toronto, referred to the very valuable results that had been attained through the efforts of the Council. Professor Ramsay Wright, in the absence of President



Froken Gina Krog, Norway



Lady Taylor, Canada.



Mrs. Henry Dobson, Tasmania.