

spread of impure literature, the introduction of manual training into public schools, the Sanatorium in Muskoka for consumptive patients, the newly organized Hamilton branch of the Aberdeen Association, and other matters, she also laid stress on the "raison d'être" of the Women's Council.

After the reading and adoption of the report of the executive committee, a resolution to the effect that the constitution and standing orders recommended by the National Council for the use of Local Councils and executives be adopted by this Local Council, was put to the meeting and carried.

Mrs. Lyle then stated her inability to stand for re-election as president, a resolution of regret at her resignation, and a standing vote of thanks for her past services to the Council were unanimously tendered her.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mrs. Sanford; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. J. M. Gibson; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Lyle; 3rd Vice-President, Mrs. Burns; 4th Vice-President, Mrs. Levy; Recording Secretary, Miss Counsell; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Macdonald; Corresponding Secretary, pro tem., Miss Harris; Treasurer, Mrs. Ballard; Auditors, Mrs. Freed and Miss G. Smith.

The committees appointed to collect facts, and otherwise to further the work of the National Council, then gave short reports, showing their progress in the work allotted to them; among the reports may be mentioned that of Mrs. Charlton, convener of the committee on the "Commitment of Insane Persons," showing that in the case of a supposed insane or imbecile patient committed to jail there is an unavoidable delay occasioned by the necessity for medical inquiry, legal procedure, etc., before the patient can be removed.

A report of the recently organized branch of the Aberdeen Association was also read.

Miss Bowman, lady superintendent of the city hospital then read an able and interesting paper on "Nursing and Emergencies," wherein she referred to the noble calling of the nurse, the stern discipline enforced during the term of probation, the advisability of an early commencement of the course of study and the *sine qua non* of good physical health; the paper also contained many useful hints as to action in cases of emergency. At its conclusion a hearty vote of thanks was tendered Miss Bowman.

During the evening pleasing solos by Mrs. Muir and Miss Craney were interspersed among the more serious affairs.

After votes of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Burns and other kind friends, the meeting closed with the National Anthem. G. C. COUNSELL,

Recording Secretary.

#### MONTREAL LOCAL COUNCIL.

The last general meeting of the Montreal Local Council, was held in the Y.M.C.A., Thursday, October 15th, at three p.m. The president, Mrs. Drummond, was in the chair. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, Mrs. Drummond announced that the two women factory-inspectors, suggested by the Council, had been appointed by the Quebec Government. Notice was then given of the formation of two branches of the "Aberdeen Association" in Montreal, the president of the French Branch being Madame Masson; of the English Branch, Mrs. Gillespie. The only distinction between the two branches is one of language. They are, in fact, two departments of one branch, and will hold their annual meeting together. Attention was directed to the need of Protestant Reformatory Schools in Montreal. At present there is only the gaol. As the conditions of ordinary prison-life render deterioration inevitable, it is necessary that some system be established, which will effect the cure of the offenders. This can be secured only by separation, judicious classification, and a

period of residence long enough to educate offenders in ways of right living.

Mrs. Drummond then read a most interesting address, making a forecast of the work to be resumed or inaugurated during the winter. Referring to the "clear, consecutive, and exhaustive account, that Her Excellency sent out the Local Councils" within a few days after the close of the May Conference, Mrs. Drummond pointed out that it would not be necessary for the Montreal Local Council to take up all the lines of work suggested. Three matters, however, presented by sub-committees of the Montreal Council, demand further attention. The first of these is "the better Legislative protection of women and children." The second matter is "the conditions of work in shops and factories for women and children." It would be well for all to procure the report upon the sweating system in Canada, recently published. "This report deals with the question of wages, and with the sanitary and other conditions of life, and labor among the industrial classes; but its primary object is to make known to what extent sweating is practised in Toronto, Hamilton, and Montreal—and as piece-work and home-work obtain more generally among women than among men, those who are enquiring into the condition of women-workers will find in this report much reliable information."

The third sub-committee enquired into the character of the reading-matter in common circulation. Mrs. Drummond asked all, hearing of the circulation of evil and debasing literature, to report it to her, that proper steps for its suppression might be taken. As a most effectual cure for any vice is the crowding of it out by the opposite virtue, the necessity of promoting the reading of cheap, wholesome literature was urged upon the members of the Council. They were reminded of the claims of the "National Home Reading Union," introduced into Canada by the Montreal Local Council. Mrs. Drummond, in this connection, spoke of another reason for promoting the "Union." It is a work in which every member may help. While the object of the Council is simply conference, and its part is "rather suggestion and sympathy than the undertaking of heavy responsibilities or large enterprise," any work which would develop the corporate feeling, which comes with mutual, united effort, should be encouraged.

Mrs. Drummond referred to the desirability of the establishment of public bath-houses in the city, thus promoting the physical comfort and health of the masses of the people. She also stated that it is intended to continue the series of Health Talks which were given last year under the auspices of the Council. Madame Thibaudau has already arranged for several "Talks" to be given in French. At the first, held a few days ago, between 700 and 800 women were present and showed the greatest interest in the subject.

Mrs. Drummond then spoke of the need of some system whereby our city charities may have a larger knowledge of each other's work, so that the work of one may not hinder or repeat the work of another. It is, therefore, intended to make conference between charities, working in similar directions, a prominent feature of the general meetings of the Local Council; and it is hoped that, in time, some regular system of inter-communication may be established.

Mrs. Learmont opened the conference on "Work for Children by institutions in Montreal." A series of questions had been sent to various institutions, enquiring into their methods of work. These questions, with the answers, were read and discussed. The following were those which excited the greatest interest:—"The desirability of strengthening the tie between mother and child," "The power of parents over children educated in institutions," "The future and occupations of the children," "The ages at which children should be admitted to and dismissed from institutions," "The advisability of a period of probation in cases

of adoption so as to avoid dislike and unkindness," "The age at which kindergarten training would benefit children, and the hours of school and recreation." These subjects were found to require further consideration, and Miss Lawder agreed to call a meeting of the societies engaged in work for children, for continued discussion.

"Charitable work as done for women," was announced as the subject for conference at the next quarterly meeting.

The meeting then adjourned.

#### VANCOUVER, B.C., LOCAL COUNCIL.

The Vancouver Branch of the National Council of Women in Canada has certainly not been idle during the two years that have elapsed since its inception, being to-day a flourishing society, full of vigor and enterprise, with a scheme of work already planned for the coming season, that, if carried out successfully, will not only redound to the credit of this band of devoted women-workers, but will materially improve the condition of suffering and aged persons in the Province.

Charity in the fullest sense of the term rules the projects of the Local Council, for it is specially towards the amelioration of the condition of those who, from the weight of years, infirmity, insanity, or other causes, are unable to protect themselves, that the energies of the Vancouver Branch are particularly devoted at present; and their work being instituted on a broad basis it should have correspondingly wide-spread public results. Children, too, are under the notice of the Council at this time, for ere another year has passed it is confidently expected that there will be at least one woman elected to the position of trustee on the local school board. This matter has for long been agitated by the Women's Council in the terminal city, and as soon as certain legal technicalities are satisfactorily arranged, a brisk campaign will be inaugurated on the mainland, with, we earnestly hope, complete ultimate success.

Of the advantages of having a woman (or if possible two women) on a school board it is not my intention to dilate, for the subject is almost inexhaustible, and one upon which very much that is favorable might be written, also because the paramount reasons why a women's influence, judgment and advice in school board matters are essential, nay, almost indispensable, in public institutions attended by boys and girls, are too patent to require capitulation.

This question, and also others pertaining to local matters of deep interest to the Council were to have been fully commented on at a public meeting on November 25th in the Dunn Hall, on which occasion Her Excellency, the Countess of Aberdeen, had signified her intention of being present, and also of addressing the members of the Local Branch and their friends. It was therefore with the deepest regret that on the very morning of the day set apart for what promised to be a largely attended and brilliant gathering, the executive committee learned by telegram that owing to the delay of the eastern express in arriving at Vancouver, Her Excellency would be obliged to relinquish the pleasure of presiding at the meeting. As the train was not due until after ten o'clock that night the executive com-

mittee decided that it would be best to cancel the meeting altogether, and merely hold a private executive conference on the

following morning in the Hotel Vancouver, at which Lady Aberdeen kindly consented to take the chair.

The careful preparations for the reception and entertainment

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