

The Conduct of a Public Meeting

By E. Cora Hind

The orderly conduct of a public meeting is a matter of increasing importance as duties multiply and time is precious. A good deal of cheap wit has been expended on women's meetings and the fact that they are not conducted according to parliamentary usages, but a long experience of public meetings of both men and women has convinced me that in this particular there is comparatively little to choose between them, and that when women give themselves to the matter their ordinary meetings are really more orderly and precise than those of men. Order was heaven's first law and this gives us the key note of the value of order. It saves time, and prevents friction. It also gives dignity and grace to the proceedings, and as the Canadian standard for the conduct of public meetings, namely "Bourinet's Procedure of Public Meetings," is to be found in every library, there is little or no excuse for any official not being posted on the proper method of conducting any portion of the business of an ordinary meeting. Of course special Societies will have peculiarities of constitution and even of proceedings, and what I have to say is based on the broad principle of an orderly public gathering, and before taking up the actual conduct of a meeting, I would like to make a few general remarks on the duties of officers and how these bear upon the orderly conduct of the meeting