

PREFACE.

Members of the National Council will remember that at the Annual Meeting at Toronto in 1895, facts were brought before our notice which caused us to appoint Special Sub-Committees to enquire into what amendments are necessary in the Laws for the protection of women and children, and into the alleged circulation of pernicious and impure literature in Canada, and as to what can be done towards its prevention. Our Local Councils were also requested to form Sub-Committees of enquiry into these subjects.

Nearly all the Councils acted in accordance with this suggestion, and many of the reports thus obtained proved to be very valuable.

The Reports contained in this volume are based mainly on the conclusions arrived at by the Local Councils. They furnish an admirable illustration of how the National Council can conduct an enquiry into circumstances affecting different parts of the Dominion, often in varying degrees, with accuracy and efficiency.

The subject can be discussed at the ordinary meetings of the Executive and the Council, and can be delegated to a Sub-Committee for investigation without the summoning of any special meetings, or the formation of a special body for the purpose.

Each Local Council which is in touch with all sections in its own community forms a natural centre for the collection of information, and is in a position to give reliable advice to the National Council as to what opinions should be formed and as to what action should be taken.

We have thought it best to publish this section of the proceedings of our National Council in a separate cover, but