

PREFACE.

The Quinquennial Congress of Women of 1909 has passed, but its proceedings are not to be ephemeral. A record was promised of its transactions, both for the benefit of those who were able to attend its sessions, and also for those who were prevented from being present.

As there were nine sections, all being held at the same time, it was impossible for those interested in several subjects to take them in their entirety—a month instead of a week would have been necessary.

We hope by this publication of papers read and the consequent discussions that followed, to fill in the blanks that were necessarily left, so that all may participate in the wealth of information that was poured out upon us by experts in various fields of thought and action.

The opportunity afforded of hearing world specialists speak on such subjects as Education, Art, Health, Industries, Laws concerning Women and Children, Literature, Professions for Women, Social Work and Moral Reform, was one that rarely comes, and happily it was taken advantage of.

These volumes should be widely circulated, not only in Canada but in the other countries that participated in the events they chronicle.

The Quinquennial Meetings were indeed “a triumph of organization.” Few could attend the numerous meetings on so many diverse subjects without seeing how truly the smooth running of the wheels indicated the perfection of the machinery, and we well know how much of this is due to the wise and careful consideration given to all the arrangements by the President of the International Council, the Countess of Aberdeen.

It is not as isolated individuals, nor even as isolated Councils, that we are called upon to grapple with the difficulties which surround us, or to endeavour to solve the many problems with which we are confronted. Twenty-three National Councils are striving, not singly but as one united whole, to further the application of the Golden Rule to the individual, to society, and to the world at large.