

or social question in which the sympathies of both of them are interested, constitutes a bond which adds not only to the pleasure but to the goodness of life, and to the goodness of work for the common object. The planting of societies in all the principal centres of this country, and the drawing into those societies in the different centres of the best women from all classes and religions and races, and making them acquainted with each other by an acquaintanceship which afterwards cements itself into friendship and intimacy on the line of a common purpose and a common work, cannot but be of the greatest benefit, not only to the individuals, but to the country at large. (Applause.) If nothing other or better than this was accomplished by this National Council of Women it would certainly be full warrant for its existence, and would entirely justify us who are not privileged to be its members in giving it the fullest support and the heartiest sympathy that we possibly can. (Applause.)

I do not intend to go over the different points which have been outlined, but there are two which you must excuse me for mentioning. Those two matters are a little out of the common line of philanthropic work, and for that reason I mention them. One is an endeavour which has already been made, and which may amount to actual results which will astonish the people of this country,—the simple plan of making a movement towards the introduction of manual training in the schools of this country. (Hear, hear!) If there is one thing that I regret more than another it is that I received my school education at a time before these things were thought of as being possible to embody in the curriculum of the schools. You who believe in charity; you who go about this country seeking to relieve want and poverty; you who seek out the crooked, the weak, the bent, the broken bands of humanity; when you bethink yourselves of the reason that this crookedness and brokenness exist, when you come to enquire what are the causes which render it necessary that alms should be asked and charity should be given, in thousands of cases the answer is that the distressed person does not know how to turn his hand to something that is useful. All manual training was a blank to him when he was young, and not much of it can be learnt afterwards; and when want and misfortune make it impossible for him to continue to carry on the work in which he has been engaged, he is unable to turn to anything else, whereas some training in some manual accomplishment might have enabled him to tide over this time of stress and poverty and want. If this training can be given in the schools of the country, as it can be by the efforts of the country's enlightened womanhood and manhood, you will provide for the young and rising generation a resource which will render the work of Associated Charities thirty or twenty-five years from now a much lighter task than it is to-day. (Applause.)

There is one other thing that I wish to speak about. I should like to refer a little more particularly to the healthy talks or sanitary