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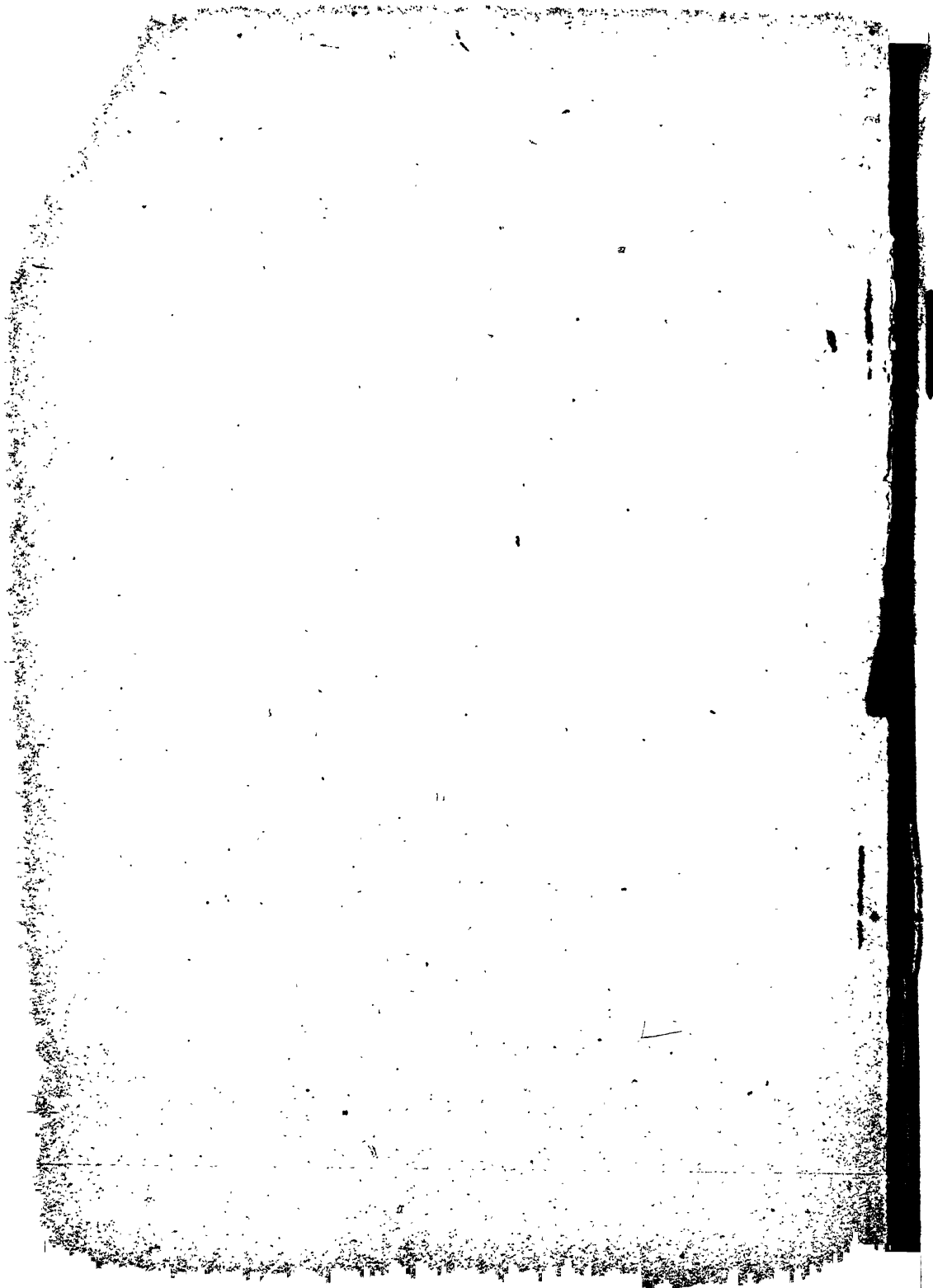


APPENDIX
TO
WOMEN WORKERS
OF
CANADA

Being the Reports and Discussions on the
laws for the Protection of Women and
Children, and on Pernicious literature
at the Third Annual Meeting of the
National Council of Women of
Canada.

Montreal, 1896.





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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

we hope that this will not lessen but increase the earnest consideration which it should receive at the hands of our Members.

We venture especially to beg all parents into whose hands this little book may fall to weigh well the matters herein treated, and to realize their deep responsibility in relation to them.

If the National Council of Women had done nothing beyond warning the fathers and mothers in Canada concerning the possible dangers awaiting their children in the circulation of vile literature, and to put them on their guard against it, and furthermore to entreat them to consider the advice given in the paper, and the discussion on the teaching of some simple facts in physiology to children, it would have amply justified its existence.

To them therefore we especially dedicate these pages.

ISHBEL ABERDEEN,

*President of the
National Council of Women of Canada.*

October, 1896.

B. C.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON LAWS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Your Sub-Committee begs to report that Sub-Committees have been formed in connection with nearly every Local Council to examine into this subject, and to consider the facts and suggestions laid before the Executive at the last Annual Meeting by Inspector Archibald.

Your Sub-Committee wishes to state that there has been some difference of opinion as to the age which is now considered the age of consent in Canada, some believing it to be fourteen and some to be sixteen.

Your Committee have consulted eminent legal authorities on this matter, who have no doubt that the present age of consent is sixteen—the same as it is in Great Britain.

Your Sub-Committee, having considered the various suggestions and recommendations made by the Local Councils, decided to recommend that the following three requests be made to the Government for amendment to the Criminal Code, as being those on which the Local Councils are most unanimous, and also as being those most likely to be carried

By approval of the National Council of Women of Canada, as expressed on the occasion of the presentation of the above Report at the Third Annual Conference in Montreal, the following note has been added to this Report:—

“ That, in the opinion of Mrs. Drummond and of the Montreal Local Council, the opinion given by certain eminent legal authorities, and quoted in the above report, that the Age of Consent in Canada is 16, the same as in England, may be misleading unless certain qualifications of the statement are clearly set down and understood, viz.: that while it is undoubtedly the case that the Laws of Great Britain and of Canada respectively do contain a law touching ‘ Age of Consent,’ which affords a certain protection to a girl from defilement up to the age of 16 years, yet there is this difference between those laws—that the protection afforded by the law of Great Britain is absolute and unconditional, whereas in Canada the protection is wholly contingent upon the character of the girl, ‘ a previously chaste character’ being an essential of the offence. That this qualification does not to a great extent abrogate the ostensible protection afforded by our law to girls of 14 or 15 years must be apparent to all who seriously consider the circumstances of *any* girl, and especially of a girl in the class of life in which such offences are most frequent, against whom, as a condonation or justification of his offence, the man may lay a charge of ‘ previously chaste character.’

“ And Mrs. Drummond would urge upon this Council, that while it hails with thankfulness every improvement, however small, it do not rest content till the age of absolute protection in Canada be raised to 16 years.”

into effect—bearing in mind the strenuous opposition always encountered and proposals to amend this part of the Criminal Code.

Your Sub-Committee, having been informed that the Minister of Justice was about to make certain recommendations to the Privy Council regarding the amendment of the Criminal Code, authorized your President to write to him, formulating these three requests on behalf of the National Council, with a further request strongly recommended by the Sub-Committee on Literature, and also to remind him of the resolution unanimously passed by the National Council at their last Annual Meeting with reference to the Law on Bigamy and which was laid before the Privy Council.

The following is a copy of the letter sent and of the reply received :—

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA.

February 28th, 1896.

DEAR MR. DICKEY,

In accordance with my promise, I venture to submit for your consideration certain proposals for the amendment of the Criminal Code which the National Council of Women of Canada wish to suggest as very desirable, in consequence of the result of enquiries in which it has been engaged during the past year.

*1. (a) In section 179:

That the words "public" and "publicly" should be omitted in Sub-Sections (a) and (b). It has been found that *private* sales can now be made without breaking the law.

(b) That a Section or Sub-Section be added making it an indictable offence to manufacture or circulate or cause to be circulated such pictures.

It is alleged that as the law stands at present, manufacturers of such pictures can escape altogether free, and that pictures, etc., can be inserted in boxes of cigarettes and other goods, and that, as it is cigarettes which are sold and not the pictures, the offenders cannot be touched. We are aware that many pictures circulated by cigarette

* NOTE.—See Report on Literature.

makers are unobjectionable, but there are some brands which are the reverse, and boys have been given prizes for the circulation of such pictures. Under this head, may I also be allowed to draw your attention to the fact that prohibited papers are very often found in barbers' shops in various towns.

2. That the age of consent be raised to eighteen.

3. That in Section 181 the words "of previous chaste character" be omitted, and that the word "eighteen" be substituted for "sixteen." The Council wishes me to point out that as a child under fourteen is not held responsible for her acts, it is manifestly unfair that she should be held responsible over fourteen for acts committed under that age. Furthermore we are informed, although I am not in a position to vouch for the exact cases, that under this section, offenders have escaped punishment who have seduced a girl who was known to have been assaulted as a little child, and therefore not held to be "of previously chaste character."

4. Under Section 183 :

To omit the words following the word "employment" on line 6 to the word "or" on the tenth line, making the Section read : "who is in his employment or in any way subject to his control or direction"—thus making it clear that the Section covers girls in shops and in domestic service, as it would seem from the title that it was meant to do. We have been given the case of some offenders in Montreal who have lately escaped punishment on the plea that this Section does not cover a shop. It is unnecessary to point out that girls in domestic service stand in need of this protection.

Then I am requested to further remind you of a Resolution passed last year by the National Council of Women of Canada, and for which we prayed the earnest consideration of the Privy Council.

It is as follows :—

Proposed by the Executive Committee of the National Council of Women of Canada :

"Whereas it has lately been decided that a married person, being a British subject resident in Canada, who goes to the United States or any place out of Canada, and there goes through a form of marriage with another person, cannot, in Canada, be convicted of bigamy ; and as it is desirable that steps be taken to remedy this unsatisfactory state of the law, it is hereby resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada do respectfully draw the attention of the Domin-

ion Government to the matter, and do earnestly request them to promote such an amendment of the Criminal Law of Canada as will meet the difficulty, if that is deemed possible, and if not, that they will urge upon the Imperial Government the necessity of supplementing in that respect the law of Canada by an Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom, or, if necessary, to provide a remedy by International agreement between Great Britain and the United States and the other States. And that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded for submission to the Privy Council of Canada."

I have placed a mark at page 219 of the Report of our proceedings, where a short discussion took place on the subject, a copy of which Report I venture to enclose.

We earnestly hope that you may see your way to do something in the matter.

I have the honor to remain

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) ISHBEL ABERDEEN,

President of the National Council of Women of Canada.

The HON. A. R. DICKEY, M.P., etc.

Minister of Justice.

2nd March, 1896.

DEAR LADY ABERDEEN,

I enclose a memorandum with regard to the Criminal Laws amendment. I have not been able to entirely adopt the views of the National Council, but I hope that you will consider even what I have done a step in the right direction.

I have the honor to be

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) A. R. DICKEY.

MEMORANDUM RESPECTING SUGGESTIONS OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA
REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
THE CRIMINAL CODE.

Section 179.

That words "public" and "publicly" should be omitted. This has been adopted in the Government Bill. By this Section the "manufacture and circulation" of the prohibited

articles should be made punishable. This has been adopted with regard to the "manufacture." It was considered impracticable at present to deal with the mere "circulation" of the pictures in question. If the practical evil continues after the enactment of the present proposition the subject can be taken up again. The present proposed amendment will, however, make it illegal for anyone to act in this matter under the incentive of gain.

Section 181.

It is suggested that the words "of previously chaste character" should be omitted, and that the word "eighteen" should be substituted for "sixteen." There is at present before the House of Commons a Bill for the purpose of increasing the age of consent to eighteen, upon which Bill the sense of the House can be obtained.

It is not thought wise to strike out the words "of previously chaste character." It must not be forgotten that after the age of fourteen a girl might acquire vicious habits, and in that case some such protection as these words provide would seem to be necessary. The case suggested of a character acquired before the age of fourteen is likely to be very rare in practice. It is almost impossible for a lawyer to understand how any Justice could have held that a girl who had been assaulted as a little child had lost her previously chaste character, under this section. Such a decision is so monstrous and so clearly against the meaning of the Statute that one cannot anticipate a repetition of it. Indeed the very occurrence of it seems to be doubtful.

Section 183.

It is suggested that the words between "employment" on line 6, and "or" on line 10 be omitted. This would, it is thought, leave the section more indefinite than is fair in the case of a Criminal Law. To meet the practical difficulty that has occurred, it is proposed, however, to insert before the word "factory" in each case of its appearance in the Section the words "shop, store." While theoretically girls in domestic service may stand in need of such protection as this, no case which would need protection has occurred actually so far as the Department of Justice can ascertain. To include girls of that class would moreover be a departure from the principle upon which this Section was founded. It was to meet the new conditions arising in modern life of young girls going out into the world and taking employment under the control of men. In this view the shop is entirely analogous to

the factory or mill, although the clause was originally aimed at manufacturing establishments. The case of domestic service is different in principle. Employment of that kind has been going on during all the ages. The work takes place in the vast majority of cases not under the control of men in any way. For all these reasons it was thought desirable not to go further than as above suggested.

Section 185.

It was suggested that there was some doubt as to whether the limit of age mentioned in Sub-Section "A" did not cover Sub-Sections "C" to "L." There is no possible ambiguity as far as the Minister of Justice can see in this Section. He would be glad to have a copy of any decision such as it is supposed the late Chief Justice of Quebec made with regard to this section. The language in his opinion is clear and unmistakable; and even if the decision in question was really made, it would seem to have been from a mind so warped that no clearness of language could control it.

With reference to the Resolution passed last year at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women respecting the laws as to bigamy, it has been found that the subject was one of considerable difficulty. From the discussion in the National Council, and from the terms of the Resolution itself, it seems that the members are aware of the constitutional difficulty involved. The section at present embodied in our Criminal Law has itself been challenged as being beyond our powers, and a decision to that effect rendered by one of the Ontario Courts. The Minister of Justice is about to submit the constitutionality of this law for the consideration of the Supreme Court of Canada, and he hopes that on that reference we may obtain such a settlement of our constitutional powers as will enable us to go still further in the direction desired by the National Council.

(Signed)

A. R. DICKEY.

Your Sub-Committee has much pleasure in submitting this favorable reply, and trusts that the Executive will endorse their action.*

*NOTE.—The Executive passed a Resolution endorsing the action of the Sub-Committee, and authorized the President to write a letter to the Minister of Justice, conveying the thanks of the Council for the courtesy and consideration with which he had treated their request. The Bill embodying the provisions mentioned by the Hon. A. R. Dickey was introduced by him in the House of Commons in April, 1896, but owing to press of other business, did not pass.

Your Sub-Committee begs to recommend that Local Councils should be reminded of the importance of a woman of experience and discretion being in court when women offenders are brought up for trial. The work has been largely carried out by the efforts of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and should receive all possible co-operation from our Local Councils.

Your Sub-Committee also wishes to draw attention to the good work being done by Rescue Homes and Shelters as reported by various Local Councils, and claim for such work hearty support and co-operation.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

Signed on behalf of the Sub-Committee,

(Signed) ISHBEL ABERDEEN.

Mrs. Cummings: Your Excellency, I suppose by this time that every member in the room has read this report.

Her Excellency: I will not ask you all whether you have done so or not.

Mrs. Cummings: May I say that if they have not read it, I sincerely hope they will, because I think these matters are very serious and important. Sub-committees, as you know, have reported in every Local Council on this matter. I have the honor to be the convener of the sub-committee of the Toronto Local Council. Dr. Stowe Gullen, who is present, was a member of it. Together we went into the matter very fully, not only by ourselves but with the rest of our committee, and also with the kindly assistance given us by the County Crown Attorney. I might say that all the suggestions we made were fully endorsed by the County Crown Attorney as changes that were not only desirable, but necessary. You will find in this report a good many of these suggestions were passed on—were considered wise by the sub-committee of the National Council, and so were passed on. One of the suggestions was about the age of consent. There seemed to be a great difference of opinion in connection with this. In fact we had a good deal of trouble to find out what was exactly the law, because the wording of the law was not very clear, and some thought the present age was fourteen, while others thought it was sixteen. We ascertained that it was sixteen. Some of us were anxious to ask that the age should be raised to twenty-one, thinking the age of consent ought to be the same as that at which a girl is able to will away property, and she is not able to do this until she is twenty-one.

We felt perfectly sure that there was no chance of carrying the point if we asked for twenty-one years, therefore, we decided to ask for eighteen. Mr. Charlton, M.P., who, in the House of Commons, was bringing up a bill which was not finally disposed of but merely received the first reading before Parliament, asked for this same age. As you will see by the letters from Mr. Dickey, he had incorporated several of our suggestions into the amendment to the Criminal Code which he was bringing before the House. I do not wish to take up your time further unless there are any questions to ask. I beg to move the adoption of the report.

Mrs. Archibald, in seconding the adoption of the report, said: Your Excellency I think that we women, of the Women's National Council, are learning that there are a great many things needing our care, and that require us to look into them. We are beginning to find that while we live in a country and are governed by its laws, it is necessary that we should know something of the nature of those laws, and thus, we are broadening and widening every day. I suppose there are many of us ashamed that there should be a law for the age of consent—an age at which any woman may consent to her own ruin. Still, on looking into this matter, we find that there must be certain laws made for the repression of crime. I suppose it has to be so, but still it seems to me entirely out of accordance with that divine law which makes but one standard for both sexes; and herein, I think, has been our failure so long, in that we have been willing to shut our eyes to these things. Now, it is no longer so, and we are looking into it.

I am glad that our sub-committee has taken up this matter so thoroughly and faithfully. I am glad this effort has been made such a general one, and we are prepared now to do what we can to raise the standard of morality in our country. (Applause.) I feel very strongly on this subject. Some years ago it was to me an unknown subject. I only learned of it through a dear friend of mine coming to me and telling me the story which had wrecked her life. We sometimes think that it is only the children of the poor who are in danger, but I assure you that every girl is in danger, and that we must look into these things and ask God to help us to be brave and true, and we must do what we can to raise the standard of honor, purity and truth in this country of ours. Unfortunately, owing to present political conditions, it looks as if we were to have our work all to do over again. I am sure we will not lose much because we will get to know more

about the necessity for the laws, and get more in earnest about the subject.

You will find that through the efforts of the sub-committee and through the efforts of our President, Her Excellency, this matter was laid before the Hon. Mr. Dickey, and some ameliorations were promised in the law. I don't know that they met with our wishes exactly, but still there has been some effort made, and it is a great thing to find that our efforts have been recognized. I know' that for years this matter has been brought up in other organizations, particularly in the Women's Christian Temperance Union. They have been petitioning for years to have the age of consent raised, with very little success thus far. Mr. Charlton, on several occasions, has staunchly stood for this. I think we should never forget that he has been willing to do that for women.

I am glad too that this Council is turning attention to the laxity of the law regarding bigamy. That, I think, is something we should look into too. I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution just offered by Mrs. Cummings, that we adopt this report presented by the sub-committee. I know there are many who wish to speak on this subject, so I will not detain you any longer.

Mrs. Drummond (Montreal): We must all be glad that the present Minister of Justice, the Hon. Mr. Dickey, is so much in sympathy with our endeavor to raise the standard of legislation regarding the most prevalent—in our estimation the most dangerous—form of evil, with which it has to deal.

But while we are thankful for any raising of the standard, the time has hardly come when we can rest content, much less rejoice, over what has been attained. I would lay stress on just one or two points, in which, to many of us, the law of our Dominion is at fault touching this matter.

We have been considering of late what is commonly called the age of consent—that is the age up to which the law affords protection to the girl against defilement, not holding the man excused even if she have given her consent. As stated in the report, there was some difference of opinion amongst us as to what is now considered the age of consent in Canada, 14 or 16, and some eminent legal authorities on being consulted had no doubt that it was 16, the same as in England.

Now we are not questioning this opinion as to what is considered the age of consent in our Dominion, and the fact is indeed patent to those who have copies of the laws of Great

Britain and of Canada re "Age of Consent," that in both cases is there a law affording protection to a girl from defilement up to the age of 16 years.

This doubtless was all that was intended by the eminent legal authorities who were asked for an opinion. But our inquiry after all is not as to what is called or considered the "Age of Consent," but as to what it signifies, and as our law regarding it has been compared to the law of Great Britain, let us set the two laws side by side that the one may elucidate the other.

Our own law runs on this wise:—

"Every one is guilty of an indictable offence who seduces and has illicit connection with any girl of previously chaste character of or above 14 and under 16."

By the law of Great Britain "every one is guilty of an indictable offence who unlawfully and carnally knows or attempts to have unlawful carnal knowledge of any girl being of or above the age of 14, and under the age of 16 years."

I need hardly point out to you that there is a difference. It is plain to you that in one case the attempt is punishable as well as the act, in the other the act must be consummated. In one case the protection is absolute, in the other it is altogether contingent upon the character of the girl. That this latter condition hardly constitutes a distinction without a difference is proved by the opposition with which the proposal to strike out this character clause has been received by our House of Commons for years past, and by the very words used by our Minister of Justice, in his reply to our request for its omission. "It is not thought wise to strike out the words 'of previously chaste character.' It must not be forgotten that after the age of 14 a girl may acquire vicious habits, and in that case, some such protection as these words provide would seem to be necessary."

Must we not then weigh our words when we say that a law which contains this clause, and a law which does not contain it are the same, and yet are told that the omission of this clause from our law would make such a difference as can hardly be contemplated?

Yes, we believe that it does make a difference, a difference of such importance that we women who have taken up this matter should fail in our duty did we disregard it. In the class of life where such offences are most frequent, girls thus defiled are not likely to be able to substantiate a good character nor to disprove the charge of a "bad" one; and, therefore, we may say with truth, that this character clause makes

almost all the difference, that in fact it qualifies away the ostensible protection afforded by this law to girls of or above 14, and under the age of 16. But our House of Commons looks at it from another standpoint. It says that this character clause is essential for the protection of the man. Is it that the man must be protected from possible physical coercion on the part of a girl of 14 or 15 who may have acquired vicious habits? (Pardon such plain speaking, but it is necessary here.) No, physical coercion is of the weaker by the stronger, a possibility which can hardly be contemplated here. Is it that he may be protected from the temptation afforded him by a girl of 14 or 15 who may be of doubtful or unchaste character? No, it is that having yielded to temptation, having finished her ruin, a ruin to which no law needs to add its penalty, he may stand before a jury whose sympathies are invariably with their sex, and plead her guilt, to cover, to condone, to justify his own.

Yes, we must understand that when men adduce, as the reason for retaining this character clause, the urgent need that they should be protected from blackmail or the extortion of money by intimidation that blackmail signifies the exposure of actual as well as of supposed wrong-doing, nor can we but believe that the blackmail which is feared is exposure of actual wrong, for the fact is notorious that false charges of this kind are of very rare occurrence, and we have also to bear in mind that whether the charge be true or false, no conviction can be obtained by the girl or woman, unless her statement is corroborated in some material particular, implicating the accused. Therefore, let a man protect himself by leading a chaste and reputable life, and let the law help him thereto by protecting him, not in, but from his follies and his sins.

It is well to have patience. It is very necessary to have patience in this cause, a cause which is especially the woman's cause, whilst the laws which relate to it being made by men, and by men alone, must in the very nature of things be partial laws, but it is hard sometimes not to lose patience, and I confess that when the old word "blackmail" is advanced as a reason for robbing the girl of 14 or 15 of adequate protection, that the man may be excused on the plea of "opportunity" or may be shielded from a very unlikely possibility of a false accusation which the law already guards against by "demanding corroboration in some material matter implicating the accused," I confess for one that my patience is hardly worthy of the name.

Let us not despise any improvement however small, let us be thankful if even the age of qualified protection be increased, but let us realize that that qualification does to a great extent abrogate the protection, and let us not rest content till the age of absolute protection, which is now in Canada 14, be at least raised to 16, as it is in England.

One other fact to which I would direct your attention. The trade of procuration, that hideous vice-traffic which is the most flagrant disgrace on our modern, our Christian civilization, goes on practically unchecked. The law does not interfere with the trade of the procurer as such. The vice-traffic, the trading and exchanging of prostitute girls is, in fact, a legal occupation. Until our laws make such trade criminal, we can do little to check the degradation of womanhood, and the wholesale demoralization of manhood.

But the responsibility does not rest entirely with the laws nor with the men who make those laws—the responsibility is also ours.

Men may laugh as they will at the "Woman's Ideal," but in their hearts they know it to be the true ideal, and that in such proportion as the woman is strong and true to that ideal, so will they realize the truth and strength of their manhood; in such proportion as the woman falls below or relinquishes that ideal, so will they decline in the noblest qualities of their manhood.

If to hold this ideal in our ignorance has kept it from fading away out of men's hearts, to hold it still, when, with a courage born of the desire to save, we have known and understood those facts that tell against its realization, to hold it then not as an impossible standard, but as one which as God is God, and we are His children, can and must be possible of attainment, thus to hold up the standard shall surely be to lead a forlorn hope to victory.

Mrs. Scott (Montreal): I would like to support everything that Mrs. Drummond has said. Having worked a long time in connection with the Maternity Hospital in Montreal, I have had a great deal of experience in seeing how very difficult it is for women to substantiate any accusation, even in the matter of trying to secure support for the child. Their story almost always falls to the ground from the fact that the reply is given, "Can you substantiate the fact of paternity?" It is really almost impossible for girls to bring forward proofs even of that. Knowing this, I felt how very much any qualifying clause must interfere with the working of this law. It is almost impossible, in the class we have principally to deal with, to substantiate character and conduct.

Mrs. Foster Avery: Your Excellency and ladies, I want to say just one word about the phase of the question that is coming up with us, and merely to emphasize the position that has been taken by Mrs. Drummond and the ladies who have spoken. In the United States some of the Social Purity Workers have taken a step further in advance of you, and are asking, "Why any age of consent?" I do not mean for a moment to question the wisdom of the report, or to question the wisdom of trying to advance the age of consent from 14 to 16, or from 16 to 18, or in some of the States where we are working for 21; but I do want to strike that keynote of the ideal, which I think we women must hold before ourselves and before the world, and so I say again, "Why any age of consent?" (Applause.)

I think what Mrs. Scott has mentioned is a fact that must not be left out of our consideration. I mean the impossibility of a girl substantiating such a charge. Now, why should it be placed upon a woman to prove her previously chaste character when we do not question the man as to his previous character; and I think under the present ideals of morality, it would be much harder for a man to prove his previously chaste character than for a girl of fourteen. It is simply impossible for a young girl, under such circumstances, to prove previously chaste character, because it is always easy for the kind of men who are liable to be indicted for this offence to get a friend or friends to prove that this girl has been previously unchaste. That is a known fact—an easy thing for a man of this kind to do; and the Court does not enter into the question of the reliability of such witnesses. It is certainly well for the women of the National Council and the Local Councils to give their thought to this work and to try to raise the age of consent. But, as I said in the beginning of my remarks, it is well to have in your mind the question, "Why any age of consent?"

Dr. Stowe Gullen (Dominion Enfranchisement Association): I admire the courage of Mrs. Avery and the other ladies who have spoken as they have. Mrs. Avery's point is a great one. In Ontario the age of consent is fourteen, and there is no justice in holding a girl of fourteen responsible for her acts. Our young sister has then no knowledge to warn her of all that it means by consent. Investigation shows heart-breaking results, and, therefore, the subject is left alone by most women.

Why raise the age of consent to 16, when a woman cannot will away property until she is 21 years old? It is a

question of money. What do men value the most, a woman's virtue or the paltry dollar? Men make the laws—and why should they legislate in these matters against themselves?

The Council is doing a great work and there is increased enthusiasm for the Council idea. Our minds run naturally in certain grooves, and coming here teaches us to open our minds to other subjects than our own. There are, however, but two great national questions:—

1. The equal right of every individual to equal opportunities; and 2. To the exercise of all opportunities and inherent rights.

The Council idea will help us to these; it will help us to broaden our sympathy and our horizon until we shall encompass the world.

Mrs. O. C. Edwards (Ottawa): I shall not go over Mrs. Drummond's ground, but I felt that every word was true. I want to give a word to you personally about our own relation to the subject. The age of consent is a new thing to most of us; do not turn away from it because it is disagreeable. There is a tendency to put it aside as a distressing subject not to be looked at, by those who love the beautiful side of life. It was this question, however, which first brought me on to a platform, and has made me speak, though there are many who would prefer that I should stay at home. But we who have worked know of the dreadful things which are done and which have to be combated. Only recently a girl was brought into our Home by a farmer. She had had a hard life in the Old Country, and she was happy and contented at the farm because the man was kind to her; he was her best friend, and when he took her best from her, she gave her consent because of his goodness, not knowing what it meant. She cried bitterly when he left her at the Home. A year after, the same man brought another girl. The same story! He was protected and he knew it; and there were two girls ruined, and two babies—paupers in the world of course.

Mrs. Tilley (The King's Daughters): In visiting recently the Home for the Protection of Girls in New York, I noted a line of demarcation. The women who had promised to reform and to raise the standard of purity were on one side, while the recent arrivals were on the other. Two girls' faces were engraven on my memory. They were both cases of extreme youth. They had been led away, but had caught at the Christian hands held out to them. Even the youngest are liable to be exposed to evil, so we have to try to get hold of them from the first. Women are responsible for this work;

no one else will do it. And one of the evils to be fought against is the trade of procreation.

Here is an instance of it:

A young girl who wished to earn more money to support her family was overheard saying so, by a procuress, who immediately offered her higher wages in Washington. The girl went with this woman, who took her to a house of ill-fame, where she was ill for some weeks. When she recovered she went down stairs where there were men and women talking in a way which disgusted her, and let her know what sort of place she had come to. She was rescued by a King's Son, who was sent, against his will, to put up a portiere. She asked to help him, and then said, "I once had a cross like yours." "Why then are you here?" he answered. She told her story, and the young man went straight to his mother, who got the girl away, and kept her till she could send her home to New York. And it was a King's Son who rescued her.

Mrs. Bryce (Winnipeg): There are one or two difficulties in the way of efforts to help such girls, and one is that a great many girls lose their virtue who have not lost their modesty, and so we cannot get true reports from them.

In only one case did we get sufficient facts to prosecute, and after five months delay, the young man put all his property out of his own hands to get out of paying, and the girl got nothing. The girls have a terror of the courts of justice and of being questioned there, and it is almost impossible to get them induced to prosecute.

Mrs. Mackintosh (Halifax): We found that an attempt was made to get girls for evil purposes by applying at the Work Exchange and the Home for girls to work in a boarding house.

Mrs. Granger (Montreal): I should like to ask Mrs. Edwards where the Home was where that farmer took the girls, and if there was no way in which his action could be held up to public indignation. Men are awfully at fault, but what are we women doing for the rising generation of men? Are we training them to be better?

The other day a fourteen-year old boy said, "If I saw that boy speaking to my sister, I'd knock him down." We have to realize that every girl must be cared for from her babyhood up as a precious treasure.

Mrs. Stevenson (Montreal): I speak with a very full heart, because we who are mothers of boys and girls, girls especially, are pleading now for those our sisters without any mother's care. Let us stand heart to heart, and mother them.

I was once one of a few ladies who gained permission to visit a house of ill-fame, and it was the saddest of sights to see the wretchedness in their faces. We were not to talk to them, but only to sing; we sang "Jesus Lover of My Soul," and the keeper of the house, with tears pouring down her face, said "Don't sing that; I used to hear it at home. I am a lost wretch now, but if you go on I shall lose all the girls I have in the Home."

We have got to alter this, the men won't help us. We have got to do it. A man who can steal a girl's virtue won't hesitate to tell a lie and to be a coward as Adam was at the beginning. The age of consent at 16 is better than at 14, because we cannot get any better. Half a loaf is better than no bread.

Mrs. Cummings (Toronto): I should like to draw attention to the clause of the report of the sub-committee which recommends that all Local Councils should work to have a woman in the court where women are brought up for trial.

Mrs. Scott (Montreal): While we are grateful and thankful for what has been already done, still I feel that this discussion will fall to the ground unless some further efforts are made. Can the Council not pledge itself to work in the future for the omission of this clause which limits the age of consent?

Her Excellency: The report if adopted already pledges the Council to do this. Mr. Dickey is in sympathy with us, and would like to go as far as he can wisely and as far as Parliament would permit, if we strengthened his hands.

Mrs. Tilley (The King's Daughters): Are not the sub-committees standing committees which will go on and on until we get what we want?

Her Excellency: I understand that it was left in the hands of the Executive to take all means in its power to further the work which we have unanimously recommended and approved. Naturally we are pledged to go forward.

Mrs. Drummond (Montreal): There is a misleading statement in this report about the age of consent. In England the absolute age is 16 and the absolute age in Canada is 14. I am in full sympathy with the report, but object to this statement.

Her Excellency: Would it satisfy you to have a note added to the report, giving an expression to your opinion? I should like to say that the unqualified opinion of three very prominent lawyers is to the effect that the age of consent in Canada is the same as in England—namely, Mr. Dickey, Minister of Justice; Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, and Mr. Osler.

Mrs. De Sola (Montreal): I think we should insist on there being no age of consent at all. As it is we only encourage the men and take half measures with the women.

Mrs. Tilley (The King's Daughters): The only way is to have equal standards of purity for men and women.

The adoption of the report was put and carried unanimously.

THE HOME TEACHING OF PHYSIOLOGY TO CHILDREN.

Read by MRS. STEVENSON, Montreal.

In undertaking to write on the subject of Home Physiology I should make two things clear :

First, my point of view.

I do not speak from the standpoint of one who has made any special study of this subject, or even as one who has had any extensive range of experience amongst children and young people, but simply as one in the ordinary ranks. This has of course its advantage and disadvantage. The latter will be apparent enough, the former is that the difficulties which arise in every-day life may more readily occur to me than they would to one who had perhaps met and conquered them so long ago as to have forgotten them.

Now it may not be altogether agreeable to see difficulties, but it is certainly the first step to their conquest in every case, except in that of those fortunate women who always know what to do by instinct—a very delightful state of affairs but one which does not occur quite so often as is generally supposed.

Most women, if they desire to act in the wisest manner, must take the trouble to examine a subject from all sides, and endeavor to pursue an ideal of conduct which, if it is not perfect, and even if they never attain to it, such as it is, will still lead them to a higher level than any which they would otherwise have reached.

The second point to be understood is the limitation of the subject as given to me.

This morning has been devoted to the consideration of perhaps the greatest of the evils that infest society and the subject of Home Physiology is only taken up in its bearing on this evil. We are not now inquiring as to the advisability of instructing children in the proper care of the body in gen-

eral, in the necessity of cleanliness, of wholesome food and exercise, fresh air and sunshine, nor in the desirability of special watchfulness over the more delicate organs, as eyes and ears, or in the formation of other good habits.

We are to leave on one side the practical benefit to be derived from familiarizing children with the right course of action, in case of the occurrence of any of the more common accidents, and are in fact to confine ourselves to the consideration of the duty of parents to warn children in regard to the possible abuse of the functions of their own bodies, with a view to prevent such part of the misery and suffering and sin in the world as may now be set down to ignorance.

It is evident that this investigation, to be thorough, would take far more time than the few minutes at our disposal, and could not from the nature of the case be made in a meeting of this kind.

All I shall attempt is to suggest some considerations, which, if followed out and filled in by each one's thought and experience, may perhaps lead to a clearer apprehension of the duties of parents in this regard.

The first question to be considered is : Should explicit teaching in this subject be given or not ? This is a case in which the line of duty is not very easily seen.

Of course it is in a general way our duty to fit our children to meet temptation, but whether the best manner of doing so lies in the direction of open warning or not, is not equally clear. It is in fact a case in which duty must follow expediency, and in endeavoring to find an answer which shall be generally applicable, we must try to decide which course of conduct is the most likely to bring about the desired result, viz., the fostering of the will and ability to resist temptation.

We can approach this question in two ways :—

A. Experimentally :—We can inquire whether, as the result of our own experience or that of others, direct warning on this subject has had a good effect.

B. Theoretically :—We can try to form some opinion, based on our knowledge of human nature in general, and child nature in particular, of general principles of morality, from whatever source they may be derived, and on what we might almost call instinct.

We will begin with the first.

Our own experience on a matter like this, if we have any, is apt to be very insistent, and to have more than its just weight. It will be well therefore to seek that of others.

Four classes of persons may be supposed to know a little more than others about the matter—viz. :—

Doctors;

Women who have worked amongst those who have fallen victims to physical temptations ;

Teachers, who have had charge of large numbers of young boys and girls ;

Parents, whose experience of child nature, though more limited, should be more intimate.

To take some specimen opinions, which each can supplement for herself.

One doctor says that the need of instruction is very great, and greatest perhaps just in those places where we could scarcely hope it would be rightly given—that is, given in a manner careful and delicate enough to do good and not harm.

He also points out the enormous practical difficulty, that any morbid thinking on such matters would tend to push the child in the very direction which it is desired to keep it from taking, and he goes so far as to say that it is worth considering whether instruction should not be given early enough to avoid much of this risk, early enough indeed to be taken in the same natural manner in which a baby accepts the fact—say of the image in the glass—without any thought of enquiry how it comes about that two people are smiling at it when a minute before it saw but one.

From a lady who works amongst the fallen I learn, that she believes that a very large portion of this class is recruited from the ranks of little girls of eleven or twelve, who have never been taught, and who awake to the knowledge of bitter experience too late to save themselves.

Recent revelations in India show that, in countries where there is an utter lack of general education, this is true to a frightful extent.

The experience of one headmaster of a great school leads him to make sure in every instance that his boys have been warned of possible dangers.

Another writes in a book full of valuable suggestions: "A larger experience and consideration has materially deepened the conviction that, wherever it is possible, a little boy should be fortified with knowledge, wholesomely imparted, of facts which he must otherwise inevitably learn in an unwholesome, mutilated and grievously misleading form. Beyond all question it would be a great safeguard. Sound teaching would allay curiosity, or if any still existed, a boy would go with a

question to his father or mother rather than to an ignorant and perhaps coarse-minded schoolfellow."

This writer also warns against the danger of stimulating the very evil dreaded by morbid thinking, and the danger of utterly deranging the judgment by the giving of exaggerated and vague ideas. Some parents to whom I have spoken think that, though they would put it off as long as possible, it is necessary to give definite instruction, especially when a child is to be thrown on his own resources by being sent to school or to sea.

On the other hand whole families of good men and women have been brought up without this explicit warning, the children being left to use their common sense in applying the general principles of purity which have been carefully instilled into them.

Turning to the second or theoretical manner of approaching the question, we find as usual much to be said on both sides. On the one hand:—

(1.) We instinctively feel that innocence is a lovely quality in childhood, as evidenced, for example, by the popular pleasure in such stories as "Little Lord Fauntleroy," where the innocence which, like the rarer charity, thinketh no evil, is strong enough to work a reformation which probably no more aggressive agency could have accomplished.

(2.) Not only do we feel that innocence is a lovely thing, we also feel that it is a right and natural condition of childhood, and that it would be unfair to impose too early a burden of knowledge and the responsibility which it brings.

(3.) Partly from these causes, no doubt, partly from a dislike of speaking on such things at all, and partly from other more delicate causes, there is undoubtedly a very strong dislike to speak to a child on this subject, and we are all governed more than we would care to admit by our likes and dislikes.

(4.) The practical complication of deciding at what age any such course of conduct is desirable, which must necessarily depend on such consideration as the degree to which, and the direction in which the child's mind is developed, and above all on the circumstances in which it is to be placed, often proves a stumbling block, even in cases where the desirability of giving warning at some time is evident.

It is also not infrequent that grown-up persons, and even parents, hardly realize the development of a child.

It is very common in books, for instance, to find a child of seven or eight talking like a baby.

But while all this is true, we must remember on the other hand that the innocence of childhood with regard to a matter of this kind has only a very partial safeguard in obedience. A child may keep away from certain books or friends which are forbidden to him, but who can be sure of being able to safeguard him from the mysterious nods of injudicious attendants, the extremely plain speaking sometimes indulged in by his elders, the carefully concealed talks with foolish or bad companions, the natural curiosity of childhood?

Secondly.—It seems overwhelmingly probable that some day knowledge must come, and *that* from some outside source, as it is not instinctive, and that if *we* do not give it, others will, and very likely not as we would wish it given.

Thirdly.—There seems to be also a pretty good chance that any parents who are likely to consider their duty in this matter at all will also be likely to give information in a better manner than others would be able to do.

Fourthly.—We may reflect that when the innocence of ignorance is no longer possible—when the child must take the inheritance of a race which has tasted of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—it is still happily possible for the childlike in spirit to hold, as it were, even the knowledge of evil in the golden cup of purity.

From all these opinions and considerations it appears to me we may conclude:

First.—That while the guarding of purity against possible peril might in some instances, perhaps in many instances, be quite safely left to the special application by the child of general principles of honor and delicacy, yet in the majority of cases it is better to give explicit warning wherever it can be done in such a manner as to avoid the risk of exciting coarse or morbid thinking.

I would like to ask a question here on a subject on which I have no information. If direct warning is ever necessary, in the case of children brought up at home, is it not absolutely essential in the case of girls, for instance, sent out from institutions at the unformed and susceptible age of sixteen, with little knowledge of life and a sudden sense of freedom? And, if it is essential, is any means provided of giving it? Is this perhaps one cause of the too frequent failure of institution children?

Second.—As to the time of giving instruction, there is no necessity of course to say everything at once. It would seem desirable to watch the child, and if its mind is thought to be turned on the subject at all, to give it enough information to

make it feel that it is not to be kept from knowing what it needs to know.

Experience would seem to show that boys should be spoken to earlier than girls. I have known several boys who would have been all the better if some knowledge had been given when they were only 9 or 10 years old, and girls of 11 to 14, of whom the same might be said; but it must necessarily be a matter for individual decision.

Assuming that instruction is to be given, in what manner can we give it so as to avoid the dangers of perhaps giving a serious shock to the sensibilities of a refined child, or stimulating in one of a rougher and perhaps stronger mould, the tendency to coarse thinking? Here also the individual judgment and tact must be relied on, but a few suggestions may be permitted.

During the necessary period of innocence let innocence be guarded carefully. Children should not be allowed to read books or newspapers where at any moment they may learn what you do not desire them to know. They should not hear the suggestive conversation of older people, often in suddenly lowered tones, which always have the effect of emphasis.

In answering their enquiries on such subjects, the appearance of mystery should be avoided. Further, when we come to speak directly, we shall find that all control over the appetites in general, which the child may have already gained, will tell forcibly for good. In the words of a recent writer, "All habits of self-control and rectitude which you implant are good; but those which you have to do with the discipline of the appetites are absolutely essential."

Now we shall find a fitting reward for all previous confidence which may have been established between mother and children. Of the greatest service will also be any previous instruction which has helped the child to look upon his body in a right aspect, that is, to look upon it as the fit instrument of the mind and soul, the fit habitation of the Eternal Spirit.

Let us not always say:

"Spite of this flesh to-day

I strove, made head, gained ground upon the whole!"

As the bird wings and sings,

Let us cry, "All good things

Are ours, nor soul helps flesh more, now, than flesh helps soul!"

In the actual presentation of the subject an effort should be made to be "matter-of-fact," to put the information in such a manner that it may be received without excitement, to place

it, as it were, on that plane of ordinary knowledge, where it can be allowed to pass out of the domain of consciousness into that of possession.

Finally, a guiding principle may be noted, applications of which run through many other departments of life and education.

We know that a good nurse can look on all the unpleasant parts of her work in such a manner as entirely to sink the detail in the general love of her profession. We know that in the heat of battle a man has been known to receive a painful wound without even noticing it.

From such analogies we may infer that it would be quite possible, even in giving instruction on a subject confessedly so full of difficulties, in simple language, to fix the attention firmly on some great point, say the relation in which the physical nature of man stands to that of plants and animals, the marvellous adaptation of the various creatures to their environment, the mystery of life itself, and that, in so directing the attention, the detail would in this case also be lost in the general, and those things which are merely means to an end, instead of filling the imagination on account of their newness, would shrink into smaller space and assume their right place and proportion.

“When the rose of thine own being
Shall reveal its central fold,
Thou shalt look within and marvel,
Fearing what thine eyes behold ;
What it shows and what it teaches
Are not things wherewith to part ;
Thorny rose ! that always costeth
Beatings of the heart.”

Mrs. Foster Avery (U. S. Council of Women): Your Excellency, Ladies,—This is a subject of vital importance, and if I may speak on it for one moment I shall feel repaid for coming to Canada.

The other day a lady said to me: “How early ought I to teach my boy certain knowledge of this kind? Eddy is now eleven.” I said: “Probably Eddy can tell you things you would be surprised at.” He was at the village school, and there are no greater hot-beds of vice than these country schools.

I gave her a book called “True Manhood,” and she was surprised to find how much her boy already knew in a wrong way.

These talks did much to alter the relations between mother and son, they were more tender, more closely linked together. It was fortunate that this was so ; nothing in heaven and earth can remove first impressions made on the plastic mind of a child, if made in the wrong way. If these things are told by the mother, the child will always look at things in a different way. I will tell you how I have dealt with my own three little daughters. At the age of six I told the eldest how a mother carries her child under her heart, and no one will be able to make a wrong impression on that child now. I do not give that age as a standard, for some children are not developed enough at six ; Miriam was advanced for her years. The second is over six, and I have told her nothing yet. If children are to associate with other people's children, they are never too young to get first impressions from their mother. I did not tell Miriam much, but said : " As you grow older, mother will tell you other things which she cannot tell you now," and she regards such talks as a confidence between her mother and herself not to be spoken about to other children. It is good to plant something ; it is not sufficient to weed out only and forbid talk and reading. We must not only keep away bad books, but put the good books in their way, leaving no room in the mind for wrong impressions.

My own plan for this summer is the result of some lectures from Hamilton Gibson, the artist and scientist, on cross-fertilization of plants, and I shall get a microscope, and study plants with the children. The father and mother element permeates everything in nature, and we will begin with this grand idea of the duality which runs through nature. By keeping ahead of the children's curiosity there will not be many questions put which I cannot answer,—they will come in a natural order.

I have just found a wonderful book, which I have long been looking for : " A Song of Life," by Margaret Warner Morley. Some of the headings are : Flowers, Fishes, Frogs, Birds ; The End and the Beginning ; The World's Cradle ; The Egg. It has good live pictures by the author herself, and the words are selected with the utmost care, and the ideas are full of duality of sex.

One other point along this line :—Mothers, follow your children into school. When a child begins to go to the Primary School, how often is the mother besought to go there too ; but the mothers think that this is the time of day when the child belongs to the teacher. Every part of the day ought

to be in the hands of the mother, and she might give at least one day of the week to go with the child to learn to know the teacher and to follow the child's intellectual and moral development. Get also to know the other mothers and children, and so create a bond between yourself and your child which nothing can break. My own mother did this, but she was the only mother of the 150 children in the school where I went, who did so. You may find abuses in the schools, which can only be rectified by mothers.

Some one has asked how to prevent children from speaking of such things as we have under discussion before their elders, making them feel awkward. I think our ideas are false as to what is awkward and embarrassing. If there was an equal standard of morality for men and women this embarrassment would not exist. By hushing up a child, we emphasize the false idea.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON LITERATURE.

Your Sub-Committee, having received the reports of the different Sub-Committees appointed by Local Councils throughout the Dominion to investigate as far as possible the extent to which various localities have suffered from the circulation of impure literature and pictures, as reported at the last Annual Meeting of the National Council, beg to report as follows:—

First: Nearly all the Local Councils report that there is little or no evidence of impure literature reaching school-children at the schools themselves.

Secondly: That there is doubtless a considerable amount of prohibited and impure literature circulated in insidious ways. Your Sub-Committee is informed that names of boys and girls are procured from school pass lists published in newspapers, from lists of names attending social parties, or in some other way, and that specimen papers, etc., are then sent by mail to these children or young people, offering a free supply to them in return for lists of other names. Your Sub-Committee is informed that parents have, in several instances, found such communications in their children's pockets. Packets of such prohibited papers and other literature appear also to be brought into this country through the medium of steamers plying between U. S. A. and Canada on the two seaboard and on the lakes. It appears from the reports sent

in that prohibited papers are often to be found in barbers' shops in many towns, and your Committee is also informed that in some cases they can be obtained from night porters on sleeping cars and at some news stands; and there are no doubt other methods and sources of distribution.

Your Sub-Committee begs to append to this report the names of the prohibited papers, and recommends that the Local Councils should draw attention to the names of these papers, which are generally of so innocent and misleading a character as not to awaken alarm.

Your Sub-Committee have been informed of one instance where a large number of one of those papers were sent to be distributed as religious papers. Your Sub-Committee's attention has been drawn to the fact that on one of our railway lines, little pictures and booklets of an offensive character have been surreptitiously offered for sale, and recommends that the attention of the railway authorities be drawn to the matter, whenever any traces of the circulation of such literature on the cars is discovered.

Another method of distributing this literature is to send samples of it and advertisements of cards and books along with small articles such as knives, photographic and printing outfits, rulers, etc., for which young people send, in answer to advertisements of these articles at low prices.

In certain localities it has been found that boys make a practice of making collections of the pictures sold with cigarette packets; some of these pictures are unobjectionable, but others are of a different character, and prizes have been given for the largest collection of the cigarette cases.

As the law stands at present, neither those who manufacture these pictures nor those who circulate them can be touched. When the boys who buy the cigarettes are under the age of 18, the sellers can be prosecuted for selling cigarettes or tobacco to them, and in this way several prosecutions have now been put in hand and convictions obtained.

One of the Councils reports that the result of their investigations leads them to believe that a far greater amount of objectionable literature is being circulated amongst children than the general public has any idea of, and that many parents and teachers have had sundry painful proofs of the truth of this assertion.

It is known that agents are employed here and there for the dissemination of this literature, one instance being that of a man arrested last year at Dereham, Ont., and proved to have sold 60 copies of a vicious book to boys and girls.

Some of our members have also had brought before their notice some catalogues descriptive of books of a most deteriorating character, which have been sent by post into this country and into the United States by a Mr. Carrington, now living in France.

In another case, one of our Councils has come upon traces of a Club of young men existing for the purpose of obtaining this sort of literature. Instances have also been given us of innocent looking card games being sold by travelling pedlars and through other means, which on being held up to the light revealed objectionable pictures and words.

Penknives have been found to be given to boys in the street by unknown parties having pictures inserted in a glass at one end. These cases are quoted for the warning of parents.

All the Local Councils dwell on the prevalence of cheap trashy, sensational literature, and its popularity amongst the young, and urge the necessity of supplying cheap healthy literature, and of fostering a taste for it.

One Local Council points out that the people in the western parts of the Dominion, especially in the smaller places, are largely dependent on the selection of books made by the News Companies and wholesale book stores who send consignments for distribution amongst the stores in the towns and villages, and that of late years there has been a preponderance of such works as those by Zola, etc., and this Council suggests that a representation on this subject might be made to the heads of the firms who distribute the books.

To sum up, your Sub-Committee begs to make the following recommendations:—

1. That the Government be requested to amend Section 179, of the Criminal Code by omitting the words "public" and "publicly" in sub-sections (a) and (b), on the ground that sales of books and papers of the character objected to can now be made privately without any penalty being imposed; and further, that a clause be added imposing a penalty on the manufacture and circulation of such books, papers or pictures.
2. That all Local Councils take steps to warn parents of the danger that exists for their children in the possibility of such communications as have been referred to, or specimens

NOTE.—Since the above recommendation was drawn up, an opportunity has occurred for its submission to the Minister of Justice, who, after laying it before the Privy Council, accepted two out of the three suggestions made for inclusion in a Government Bill, viz.: That the private as well as the public sale of all such books and pictures be made an offence, and that their manufacture also shall involve a penalty.

of impure literature or prohibited papers being addressed to them. A list of the prohibited papers should be furnished when desired.

Parents and others should be urged to be on their guard in this matter, and if they discover any such literature coming to their homes, to send it, and the wrapper or envelope in which it is enclosed, to the President of the Local Council, or to some one in a responsible position, in order that further steps may be taken to trace whence such communications come, and to lead to their suppression.

3. That Local Councils be urged to keep before parents the duty of themselves instructing their children in simple physiological facts, basing such instruction on plant life and other lessons in nature, which knowledge thus imparted will prevent them from endeavoring to get information through impure sources.

4. That all Local Councils and National Societies should make an earnest effort to promote the circulation of cheap attractive, healthy literature, and to make it popular, especially amongst the young people.

Amongst other methods of attaining this object may be mentioned:

(a) The establishment of Libraries.

These may take the form of:—

1. School Libraries. Such libraries attached to every school by the Government of each Province, containing carefully selected books, would probably best meet the special need urged on your Sub-Committee by the reports of the Local Councils. Such libraries could be made a mighty engine for good in the hands of wise teachers, who could thereby guide the reading of those under their charge, and direct it into helpful and stimulating directions.
2. Public Libraries under the Public Library Act of Canada. This act can be put in motion by one hundred ratepayers signing a petition to the City Council, who can then frame a by-law and submit it to the consideration of the citizens as a whole.
3. Libraries formed by voluntary effort or in connection with literary societies, Sunday School work, etc.

(b) Home reading and Chautauqua circles.

(c) The establishment of magazine and book-clubs with competitions and prizes for essays, etc.

(d) The circulation of lists of books which will interest and

amuse young people, and at the same time cultivate and refine their tastes. Some such lists have been prepared by one or two of our Local Councils for this purpose, and will be appended to this Report.

- (e) Debates and discussions in our Local Councils and in the Societies affiliated with them concerning the current literature of the day, giving guidance to parents who have no leisure to examine such literature for themselves.
- (f) Efforts similar to those already undertaken by branches of the Women's Art Society, who have by the kindness and co-operation of newspaper proprietors been enabled to introduce bright illustrated stories and articles into some of the weekly issues of papers which are much read. The President of the National Council will hold herself ready to give any assistance in her power to Local Councils and National Societies desiring information as to the organization of such efforts.

It is hoped that every Local Council will appoint a Standing Literature Committee to watch over every aspect of this question, and one which could at the same time act as a Press Committee for each Council.

Your Sub-Committee cannot conclude without acknowledging the indebtedness which those members of the Local Councils, who have undertaken this enquiry, feel that they owe to those who have helped them to gain the information sought for, and their thanks to those officials, whether of the Post Office, Customs or other departments, who have shown by their interest and co-operation their desire to do all in their power to enforce the law and to stem the evil complained of.

Your Sub-Committee rejoices to be able to report that every effort made to suppress the circulation of deteriorating literature will receive the most hearty support from our neighbors in the United States.

The President of the Society for the Suppression of Vice has written to one of the Local Councils, stating that tons of this literature destined for Canada have been destroyed, and that any objectionable papers or communications which are detected and which are sent to him will be carefully investigated.

The President of the National Council of Women of Canada has had an opportunity of personal conference with Mrs. Lowe Dickinson, President of the National Council of the U.S.A., who is ready to carry out the pledge made on behalf of the American Council by Mrs. Foster Avery at the last Annual Meeting.

Mrs. Lowe Dickinson has kindly undertaken to form a Committee who will draw up a statement concerning the different laws touching this subject as they exist in each State of the Union for the use of our Council, and will be ready to take any further action that may be required.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed on behalf of the Sub-Committee.

(Signed) ISHBEL ABERDEEN.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS WHOSE TRANSMISSION
BY MAIL IN CANADA IS PROHIBITED.

The Home..... Boston, Mass.
The Yank..... Boston, Mass.
The American Nation..... Boston, Mass.
The Welcome Friend..... New York.
The Merry Maker..... New York.
Modern Stories..... New York.
Music and Drama..... New York.
The Truth Seeker..... New York.
The Hearthstone... .. New York.
Fox's Weekly..... New York.
Hours at Home..... New York.
The Metropolitan and Rural Home. New York.
House and Home..... New York.
The Home Circle..... New York.
Our Country Home..... New York.
The Illustrated Record..... New York.
The Home and Fireside New York.
The Standard..... New York.
The Detective Library..... New York.
The Chicago Despatch..... Chicago, Ill.
The Climax..... Chicago, Ill.
The Household Guest..... Chicago, Ill.
The Chicago Mascot..... Chicago, Ill.
The Breeze..... Augusta, Me., U.S.A.
The American Farmer..... Portland, Me.
The Illustrated Monthly Fireside
 Gem..... Waterloo, Me.
The Rambler..... Bridgeport, Conn., U.S.A.
Modern Money Maker Minneapolis, U.S.A.

The American Agent.....	Boyleston, Ind.
The Advance.....	Passumpsic, Vt., U.S.A.
Young America.....	Washington, D. C.
The Agent's Guide.....	New York, U.S.A.
The Agent's Herald.....	Philadelphia, U.S.A.
The American Cottage Home.....	Jersey City, U.S.A.
The American Fireside and Farm.....	Jersey City, U.S.A.
The American Homestead.....	Jersey City, U.S.A.
The American Household Journal.....	Jersey City, U.S.A.
Cheerful Moments.....	Boston, U.S.A.
Detroit Sunday Sun.....	Detroit, U.S.A.
Gil Blas (Illustré).....	Paris, France.
The Household Companion.....	New York, U.S.A.
The Illustrated Companion.....	New York, U.S.A.
Illustrated New York News.....	New York, U.S.A.
Krums of Komfort.....	New York, U.S.A.
Mercury.....	New York, U.S.A.
The Plain Dealer.....	Moncton, N.B.
The Police Gazette.....	New York, U.S.A.
The Police News.....	New York, U.S.A.
The Welcome Visitor.....	Augusta, Me., U.S.A.
Youth and Home.....	Cadiz, O., U.S.A.
The Hornet.....	Moncton, N.B.
The Home Treasury.....	Augusta, Me., U.S.

THE FOLLOWING PAPERS HAVE BEEN ON THE PROHIBITED LIST FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT HAVE BEEN REMOVED ON THE PUBLISHER PROMISING TO OMIT THE OBJECTIONABLE MATTER IN FUTURE.

The Rural Home.....	New York, U.S.A.
People's Home Journal.....	New York, U.S.A.
The Saturday Blade.....	Chicago, Ill.
Farm and Home.....	Chicago, Ill.
The Illustrated Sun.....	Chicago, Ill.
Good Stories.....	Augusta, Me.
Daughters of America.....	Augusta, Me.
The National Farmer and Home Magazine.....	Augusta, Me.
The Illustrated Family Herald.....	Augusta, Me.
Happy Hours.....	Augusta, Me.
Sunshine and Youth.....	Augusta, Me.

Golden Moments.....	Augusta, Me.
The Home & Fireside Magazine....	Portland, Me.
People's Illustrated Journal & Practical Housekeeper.....	Portland, Me.
The Housekeeper....	Minneapolis, Minn.
The Sunday World.....	Detroit, Mich.
People's Journal.....	Washington, D.C.
The Public Herald.....	Philadelphia, Pa.

Miss Machar, of Kingston, moved the adoption of the report, and said :—Your Excellency and ladies of the Council, it is an easy and simple task to move the adoption of a report on which all of us will be unanimous. In regard to this report, I think that everyone of us who has read it must be sure that if the Women's Council had done nothing else but arouse public attention to the fact of the immense influx of poisonous reading matter, papers and pictures, to be circulated amongst our youthful population, amongst the rising generation—the boys and girls—it would have accomplished a very good work. (Applause.) With reference to the circulation of this class of literature in our schools, I had it from a teacher in Toronto that she knew of such demoralizing papers and pictures being passed from one child to another in some of the Toronto schools. If that is the case there, we may be fairly sure it is the case elsewhere ; and I thought what Mrs. Avery said about parental watchfulness over the children in the schools should be applied to this question also.

I am very glad that the Committee has not hesitated to ask for legislation, which is simply the consensus of enlightened public opinion against the grasping cupidity and class selfishness of the few. We are asking protection for the children from the people who, with almost fiendish pertinacity, are determined to make money by the circulation of this literature. There is one thing wanted. The manufacture of improper pictures is spoken of ; the circulation of them is not mentioned, and I wish the legislation contemplated had included the circulation as well as manufacture of the pictures which are not manufactured in Canada, but are here in this City of Montreal put into the packages of cigars and cigarettes, so as not only to injure the boys physically by premature smoking, but also to corrupt their minds by impure suggestions. And here I wish to correct a misleading statement. I was very much surprised to hear, the other evening, from a gentleman who ought to be informed in legal matters,

that we had in Ontario a law whereby children could be arrested for smoking on the street. I never heard of such a law, and may safely say that none exists. But we have in Ontario a law whereby persons who sell cigars, etc., to minors under eighteen can be prosecuted, and it is considered by all whose opinion is worth anything, to be a very beneficial piece of legislation—one of the many such which stand on the Statute Book to the credit of our revered Premier, Sir Oliver Mowat.—so highly esteemed by people of all political parties, not only for his long and steady devotion to the public service, but also for his pure and blameless political life. (Applause.)

I will only say further that I hope the Local Councils will not relax their vigilance on this point, but will continue to make enquiries and collect information which may be of use in checking this evil, one of the most serious that can menace our rising generation. (Applause.) I am very happy to move the adoption of the report.

Mrs. Tilley. (London) :—Your Excellency and ladies, in seconding the adoption of this report, I desire especially to draw your attention to the list of papers that are now allowed again to come into Canada. That is one special point to which I wish to draw your attention in the report, because we have, since this was arranged, obtained a little further information from a most reliable authority, namely, Andrew Comstock, President of the Society for the Suppression of Vice, of New York. In regard to that, he says, "The papers having already obtained a reputation for obscene reading, they trade upon it, and while they profess to reform, they take out the worst, and, by leading words, leave the imagination to supply the details they are forced to suppress."

There are on our submitted list of prohibited papers twenty-one advertising mediums. These are not supported by regular subscribers: they are published once a month, and circulate at two cents per pound, and so this immoral matter can thus be sent out by the pound at cheap postal rates in the United States. During the month of March last, eleven tons of it were mailed every day from one concern in Augusta, Maine, alone. Is it not probable that the State of Maine, lying right beside the Province of New Brunswick, sends some of these publications into our own country?

I draw your attention to the list of papers at the end of the report, now allowed to enter Canada again on promise of reform. Mr. Comstock's opinion of this list is that it will

bear very close scrutiny, especially the advertising mediums (of which there are ten on the list), many of which, he says, would be deemed sufficiently objectionable to be prohibited by Government from entering Canada.

Then, in regard to promised reform, we need to be very suspicious, for a man will advertise a properly legitimate matter first and afterwards send a criminal matter. A Canadian is at the present time in jail in New York for this very thing. The danger for our innocent little ones lies here. A paper will have advertisements to attract children, such for instance as this, "Send ten cents and get a set of paper dolls." With the dolls will come a vile paper; but this is not all, the child's name passes around to a lot of other papers (for part of the vile trade is to sell addresses at so much), and so the child not only gets the innocent dolls, but a vile paper, and after that a flood of vile papers.

Such information, coming as it does from a man in authority, who has for twenty-three years been trying to stem this tide of evil, should, I think, have great weight.

And now, wives and mothers of Canada, what should be our attitude? "An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," and I would say surround the children from the earliest moment with good, attractive books; take a personal interest in their reading; encourage the formation of Home Reading Clubs and Public Libraries. But even here we may be assailed with evil, and I would urge every citizen to keep their eyes open to the books in the public libraries, for in two cities I personally know of books of a morally deteriorating character being on the catalogue.

In seconding the adoption of this report, I pray God that we, women of Canada, standing shoulder to shoulder, shall make ourselves a wall of adamant, against which these tides of evil may break and fall harmlessly backward, and the children, for whose sakes we have gone down to the gates of death, may find in us a barricade of women determined to protect them from the evil that threatens to destroy them body and soul. (Applause.)

Mrs. Archibald (Halifax):—Your Excellency, Ladies of the Council,—I have very great pleasure in coming forward to support this resolution that we adopt this report of the Subcommittee on the Spread of Impure Literature. It seems that "eternal vigilance is the only price of safety." This Council will have to exercise it in a great many directions. You have the report in your hands; you see there is great

reason for vigilance on our part. These are no fancied evils. The fact of its being a hidden one makes it all the more insidious. I am quite sure that half the dangers will vanish when we can throw light upon them. It is the very fact of its being secret which makes it so difficult to deal with the matter. Here we have a list of these papers which are prohibited, and yet we find that they do come into Canada in large quantities. The names of some of the papers are so misleading as to completely deceive a person as to the quality of the contents. Not long ago, while delivering a lecture, I mentioned that this Literature Committee had drawn up this list, and that I would be very glad to place a copy of the list in the hands of any of the teachers of the public schools. After the lecture some of them came to me to ask the names of some of the papers. When I told them, they said, "Why, we take those papers. We find nothing peculiar in them." You see how important it is that the attention of the people should be called to these things. From the very names, they are misleading. There is a great deal said about the circulation of impure literature and pictures. I think we need a word of warning about what constitutes an impure book. I think that these things which are openly impure and immoral are perhaps less dangerous than those that are only suggestive, and that there is great danger from the reading of the trashy literature which is at the present time so plentiful and so cheap. We ought to be very careful about the character of the books placed in the hands of our sons and daughters. There is far too much novel reading by the young people of our nation. These things, which are not supposed to do any very great harm—there is no open evil in them, and yet from the very suggestions they make, from the manner with which they treat the subjects dealt with—things which we ought to consider crimes—are apt to be more dangerous than if they were openly impure. If a girl's mind is filled only with these trashy things, what can you expect of her? We cannot be too careful to suggest and oversee the reading of our daughters. I believe that the prohibition of these papers and books would be a very good thing, but I believe that substitution is better than prohibition or even suppression. (Applause.) We want to substitute for all this pernicious stuff—we want to substitute that which is bright, healthful and pleasant. When we begin to study these subjects in connection with the training of our sons and daughters, then I think that there is every hope that these things will vanish away when more light is thrown upon them.

We should never forget that we can render material assistance to the authorities. The importation of this class of literature is distinctly forbidden. I remember on another occasion, in speaking in public of the prevalency of this impure literature, and in the audience a gentleman arose who had been formerly connected for years with one of the post-offices. He said that the post-office authorities would only be too glad if those in whose homes the papers came would inform the post-office authorities of it. He said there are many ways of changing the appearance of the papers and wrappers so as to make it difficult to detect that they had been brought in.

I want to say that I think that one great feature of our Council is its helpfulness, its wide character, and the fact that from our very constitution we embrace those of different religious views, and it is a very great help in many matters. I think—I don't know that I am speaking with absolute accuracy, and of course, I am subject to correction if I am wrong—but to me the impression is this, that there is not quite so much danger to the youth of the Catholic Church from the distribution of this impure literature as there is to those of us who are Protestant. I think there is more supervision exercised with them than with us. I know that in the early days, when I was trying to do some work in a little way in the direction of reform in this respect, one of the greatest encouragements I ever had was a most beautiful letter from a dear, saintly Roman Catholic priest, who for the first time called my attention to the dangers our children encounter in the common schools along this very line of evil suggestions—along the line that we are speaking of now, of immoral pictures and of suggestions by other children.

I rejoice to see that in this report one of the recommendations is that parents should take the first opportunity of instructing their children in simple physiological facts. We have had a very interesting discussion on that this morning, and I am sure we will not soon forget the beautiful and inspiring words of Mrs. Avery on this subject. (Applause.) With reference to the common schools, I think I can speak from experience of the dangers sometimes met with there. There are many dangers constantly besetting our children in the schools. I would like to endorse what Mrs. Avery said, "Follow your children into the schools, and keep watch of them." The priest of whom I spoke a few moments ago, and whose very name in that part of the country stands for every-

thing that is good and true and pure, in this letter said, "Whenever I see a number of little girls coming out of a public school, I just feel that I could put my arms around them to protect them." Your child is living in constant danger from the child sitting behind at the next desk, so that we mothers have to be eternally on our guard.

I want to look a little now on the bright side of things. There is one recommendation in the report that I most heartily endorse, and that is, "that all Local Councils and National Societies should make an earnest effort to promote the circulation of cheap, attractive, healthy literature, and to make it popular especially amongst the young people." I think we owe our President a debt of gratitude for bringing it so prominently before the large audience the other evening. We ought to see to it that wherever we have a Local Council, we should take enough interest in this matter to see that there is a school library attached, containing healthy literature. (Applause.) In Halifax, our attention has been directed to that by the teachers themselves, and we have thought of a plan by which we can get books by asking everyone who comes to bring a book to contribute towards the establishment of a library. You could all help in that way, and that would be a very great boon.

The public press can and does do a great deal in this direction, and I am glad to say that in our part of the country, the press is stimulating the young people not only to reading a good style, but to write themselves; and on this line, I would like to say how much we are indebted to Her Excellency for the "Good Gossip Club" established in "Wee Willie Winkle." It is a great thing to guard against evil, but it is a better thing to emphasize and bring up the good, and if we can get the children looking for these helpful things in their daily lives in connection with the places in which they live, I am sure it is going to have a helpful and uplifting influence and effect; and by and bye all these evil influences will shrink away, and I believe that the good will overcome the evil. So let us go on and be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good. (Applause.)

Mrs. Boomer (London) :—Your Excellency, I really have only a few words to say on this subject, and perhaps I have a little feeling that I would like to wipe away the impression of my flippancy yesterday—to let you know that when a grave and important subject comes up, there is not a heart that can be moved more than mine. (Applause.) Mrs. Tilley has said all that can be said on behalf of our Sub-

Committee. There are one or two thoughts that have occurred to me. I think that the key-note was struck by Mrs. Archibald, when she said we should look for divine help in this matter. I am sure we certainly do need divine guidance. The importance of the subject cannot be too strongly impressed on our mind.

You all know of Bacon's speech, to the effect that if he could control the literature of the household he would guarantee the welfare of the State. I wish only to mention an incident of what one woman was able to do in the direction of the suppression of literature of this kind. It probably is known to you all. One of the noblest acts of self-denial on the part of a woman, yet withal, pathetic, is presented by Lady Burcun in destroying her dead husband's manuscript—the manuscript of a book he had bequeathed to her, and which she could have disposed of for thirty thousand dollars. The book was a translation from the Arabic. Her husband, when dying, told her that, compared with it, his "Arabian Nights" was a holy tale, and that it was likely to "make a row." After his death, she read the work, and after days of self torture committed it sorrowfully but reverently to the flames. There are some who may doubt the wisdom of her action, but there are none who will not see or appreciate the pathos of the situation and the purity and nobility of her act. I think the lesson of that is simply the opportunity afforded to us as women to make some sacrifice or do something towards the suppression of this impure and poisonous reading matter.

Miss Murray (St. John):—Your Excellency, I am very much interested indeed in this subject, as I am head of the Committee and member of several book clubs in St. John. I know exactly how very difficult it is to make a good selection of books, and yet how important it is. I know that once a book of Tolstoi's got into our library, we thought it was some historical work. We found that it was circulating very rapidly. One day a little girl said to me, "Oh, Miss Murray, it is the wickedest book I ever read." Immediately I called it in. And that is the way certain books creep into our libraries. Of course, there are different opinions upon these leading books, and that makes it all the more difficult to decide what is right. If we could only use our influence against books that have not a good tendency, both by our example and advice, I am sure we would be doing a great deal. In reference to the higher class of literature, these books are more difficult to deal with than the lower class.

of literature, because when a book comes into fashion it is so hard to keep it out of our libraries. On my journey to Toronto last year, I heard a suggestion from a Canadian mother that I thought was a good one with reference to the book "Trilby" and the various opinions expressed concerning it. She said her daughter had heard of it and wished very much to read it. She told me that she took the book and read the story—the less objectionable parts—to her young daughter, so that she might know about the story and that she might learn of it in the least objectionable way. She thought it was the best way to make her acquainted with a story about which everybody was talking, and at the same time to satisfy her curiosity.

I would like very much to have any suggestions on the subject of literature for young people in public libraries. We do not limit it to Church of England books, but it is the current literature of the day. There is one line I have tried to get, and that is books dealing with the romance before marriage; as for those dealing with the romance after marriage, I don't like to let them into our library. (Laughter and applause.) I would ask your influence to try and put down this sort of books, unless we can get those that represent the purity and the happiness of married life.

Miss Hart (Toronto):—Your Excellency, I merely wish to say that as a Catholic and a Catholic teacher, and one who has taught in the Catholic schools for the last ten years, I would like to substantiate what Mrs. Archibald said. Much, in fact all, of what I heard this morning, on the matter of impure literature and on the question under discussion, is a revelation to me. In my experience, I have never met with a book, leaf or picture of the kind described this morning, in our schools.

Mrs. Thompson (St. John):—Your Excellency, I merely wish to mention in reference to school libraries that these have been provided for by the Government in New Brunswick for any district, at least where, under the provisions of the School Act and governed by the regulations of the Board of Education, two-thirds of the costs of books for school libraries is paid by a Government grant.

Any district wishing to avail itself of this privilege must apply through Trustees or Teachers, forwarding to the Educational Office at the same time a list or invoice of the books to be furnished. This list is carefully revised by the Chief Superintendent of Education, any objectionable or even doubt-

ful books stricken out, and a draft for the two-thirds costs forwarded at once to the said District. In this way very many of the Country Districts (for whose benefit the clause of the Act is especially intended) are furnished with libraries containing standard literature and all the best juvenile books of the day. Additions to any library made from time to time are provided for in the same way.

Mrs. Boomer (London) :—One word, Your Excellency, in answer to that young lady who said she had never discovered any of this impure literature or pictures in the schools. That was the general answer given until they investigated it more thoroughly, and those very teachers afterwards had to acknowledge that they had not found it all out in the schools. Therefore, I would ask the young lady just to go home and try a little bit harder.

Miss Harris (Hamilton) :—I simply wish to say that as a teacher in the Hamilton schools, I have never seen a picture, an impure picture—or a book or any impure literature in all my experience in our schools.

Mrs. Ballard (Hamilton) :—Your Excellency, I would like to ask Mrs. Archibald and Mrs. Avery what schools they referred to—the public schools that she called, “hot beds of iniquity?” Our schools in Hamilton are attended by children of our first families—by rich and poor. I was educated in the public schools partly, and I attended a private school, and the worst that I ever heard, I heard in the private school. I don't think it is quite right to condemn our public schools as they have been condemned here to-day. It has been done wholesale, and I hardly think it is fair, while nothing has been said about the private schools.

Mrs. Avery (Philadelphia) : I don't retract my assertion. I said particularly the public or common schools. I know it for a fact, that in many of our common schools the fences have to be whitewashed over before the end of the term, so much are they written over with vile things. That is true, and it is easily corroborated. I know it from teachers of such schools. They say there are epidemics of vice among the children at times that hardly can be controlled.

A Delegate: Your Excellency, I had not expected to say one word upon this subject. I am not a platform speaker, but I have listened with great interest to all that has been said thus far. It strikes me, however, that there has been one point omitted, and that is that there is a certain class of daily newspapers that introduces into our homes a great deal of this evil. (Applause.) I am happy to say that I can bear testi-

mony that there are in Canada many pure, wholesome papers, that may be introduced into our households with perfect ease of mind. but unhappily there is another class of literature that depends for existence on the publication of immoral articles. These papers come to our homes, our children read them, and the poison is instilled into their minds before we know it exists. As mothers, we should be as careful that no poison is mixed with the mental food of our children as we are careful that no poison is mixed with the food that sustains their body. It is our own fault; we cannot blame any outside person for it.

Her Excellency: I am most anxious that this subject be fully discussed; at the same time, we have a very important subject coming up afterwards. It is for the Council to decide if we are to continue longer. We certainly cannot encroach on the business to-morrow morning. We have already more than we can do to-morrow. There are the resolutions that have been sent up by the Local Councils. We were talking about resolutions being ignored by the Executive, but it seems as if the Council itself in this case were likely to ignore them. I know it would be a disappointment to the Councils if these resolutions cannot be discussed.

Mrs. Cummings: I think the next report will certainly require an hour's consideration.

Mrs. Torrington (Toronto): Just a word in relation to a point not touched upon this morning. I would like to mention briefly, that in connection with one of our missions in Toronto, we have a library where we have pure and good literature free to boys two evenings in the week, and to girls two evenings in the week, and in going to the homes, we have helped mothers very much by lending profitable reading. A young lady goes to this library when the boys are there two evenings in the week, and on one occasion one of the boys surprised her by saying, "I should like to write an essay," and another said, "I should like to sing at our next entertainment." However, there were others who thought that it was entirely wrong to encourage the boys in their taste for music and literature. I merely want to say how helpful I thought it would be in connection with the charitable organizations which perhaps is the lowest form of help.

Her Excellency: Mr. Ross sent me the amendments to the Public Library Act for Ontario, just passed. They have enabled school corporations and municipal corporations in country districts to contribute from their funds for public

libraries, and in the event of such a school corporation starting a public library in this way, the Government will give one dollar for every dollar expended by the Board of Management for the purchase of books. This was done with the idea of encouraging school libraries.

In putting the adoption of this resolution, as in the case of the former report, I want our delegates from the Local Councils to feel that they are taking a real responsibility on themselves. These subjects are very important. In fact, we pledge ourselves—every delegate pledges herself to go back to her own Council and try to do her best to carry out the recommendations in these reports. Don't let the adoption of this report be a mere empty resolution. I know there are members here who could give us further information on the subject, but there is not time, and therefore, let us take these reports, and let us go home pledged to work for the recommendations which they contain. I may also mention that in regard to these lists of prohibited publications, that I have had letters from Western Councils, asking if it is really true that there is anything objectionable in these publications, because members of their families take them in.

Her Excellency here submitted the motion that this Report on the Spread of Impure Literature be adopted. Carried unanimously.

EXTRACT FROM MEMORANDUM ON PUBLIC LIBRARIES
DRAWN UP FOR HER EXCELLENCY BY HON.
G. W. ROSS, MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
FOR ONTARIO.

Public libraries can be established in the Province of Ontario under three conditions:—

(1) Any number of persons not fewer than ten may become incorporated under Section 17 of the Public Libraries' Act, for the purpose of establishing a Public Library. At least 100 persons must subscribe themselves as members, of whom 50 must be over 21 years of age. The members shall appoint a Board of Management (Sub-Section 4, of Section 17), and the Board shall provide suitable accommodation for the use of the Library. By an amendment of last Session, the Government will pay \$1 for every \$1 expended on newspapers or magazines, but so as not to exceed \$200.

Any school corporation or any municipal corporation can contribute for the maintenance of such a library.

(There are already established in the province about 250 of this class of library, some of them in the smaller towns and villages, others in the rural districts. The circulation from these libraries last year amounted to over 600,000 volumes.)

(2) Under part II. of the Libraries' Act (Section 10) the Municipal Council of a city, town or incorporated village may appoint a

board of management for a library, and may grant it such aid as it may deem expedient. In that case the library is supposed to be conducted on a larger scale. This Act took effect in 1895, and already in over 20 of our smaller towns, Boards of Management have been appointed and Public Libraries in some cases have been started, and in other cases the old Mechanics' Institute was taken over as provided in part II. of the Act.

(3) Under part I. of the Act, a municipal corporation, with the approval of the ratepayers, may erect a library building and tax the ratepayers for the full cost of management and maintenance. In 1895 there were 12 free libraries established in this way, and the number has increased within the last year.

Libraries established as set forth in paragraphs (2) and (3) are free libraries,—that is to say, any ratepayer in the municipality is entitled to use the library without charge. Libraries established under paragraph (1) are available only to the members, who are expected to contribute a small amount annually for maintenance.

At the bottom of page xxiv. you will please find a statement showing the growth of Mechanics' Institutes (the old name for Public Libraries) and Free Libraries since 1893.