

Kirk moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Bell for his able paper.

#### CANTERBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.—

An extraordinary meeting was held on November 1, to consider the suggestions of the Canterbury Medical Society, with regard to the treatment of contagious disease. Dr Symes was present, and explained the purport of the suggestions at some length. It was resolved—"That the Institute, having read and considered the draft of the Contagious Diseases Bill prepared by the Canterbury Medical Society, and having heard Drs Symes and Campbell in explanation of the supposed advantages of such a Bill, hereby declares its opposition to the measure for the following reasons:—(1) That it contains all the worst features of the present Act in its violation of constitutional law; in its system of espionage; in the unlimited powers given to magistrates to cause women to be subjected to gross indignity; in that it proposes to place the modesty and fair fame of any woman or girl at the mercy of an official who may be neither intelligent nor scrupulous. (2) That from the wide experience of the highest and most reliable medical and police authorities in the older countries, it has been conclusively proved that examination is useless as a safeguard against venereal disease." There were three dissentients to the passing of this resolution. It was further resolved:—(1) "That the Government be asked to take such steps as will compel the hospital authorities to establish separate wards for the treatment of venereal diseases, where patients who may voluntarily present themselves may be freely and efficiently treated. (2) That medical men and all who treat venereal disease be compelled to report cases of venereal patients." The last two resolutions were passed unanimously, and a hearty vote of thanks to Dr Symes for his explanations was also passed.

**WANGANUI WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEAGUE.**—A largely attended meeting of this League passed a resolution requesting the Government, in view of the dissatisfaction with the administration of charitable aid by bodies composed entirely of men, when subsidising hospital and charitable aid boards to reserve to itself the right to appoint two women as members of each board, pending an alteration in the law making boards directly elective by the people.

#### International Council Notes.

THE Executive Committee met at the Women's Institute, London, on the 8th and 9th July, 1897. There were present: Countess of Aberdeen (chair), Frau Simson and Frau Bieher Boehm, Germany; Miss Windeyer, New South Wales; Miss Perrin and Mrs Cox, Canada; Miss Kramers, Holland (by invitation, without a vote); and Miss Wilson, the Corresponding Secretary.

It was decided that the meetings of the session should be opened with silent prayer, and that the question of what method should be adopted permanently for opening the meetings be referred to the members of the Executive and the federated National Councils.

It was decided that the next quinquennial meeting be deferred till 1899.

A proposal to alter the quinquennial fee from £20 to £40 was negatived. It was resolved and carried that the quinquennial fee be paid in yearly instalments. It was also resolved and carried—"That the amount of the quinquennial fee to be paid by the National Councils be placed on a proportional basis, which shall take into account either the numbers of local councils or societies affiliated to the National Council, or the size and population of the country in question, as the International Council may decide."

#### NOTICES OF MOTION TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA.

I. "That an International Bureau of Information concerning women's work, women's position and progress in all countries, be formed under the auspices of the International Council."

II. "That the subject of furthering the question of International Arbitration be made the leading topic to be before the International Council at its quinquennial meeting in 1899;" and (III.) "That two papers on International Arbitration be prepared for the Council meeting as a basis of discussion."

IV. "That the next quinquennial meeting of the International Council be held in Berlin."

V. Proposed by the National Council of Germany, and afterwards withdrawn for further consideration:—"That the National Councils of all countries unite to effect the abrogation of those laws, still existing in all civilised countries, which invest the husband with the right of claiming obedience from his wife."

VI. "That the Congress take united action, through the National Councils

of all countries, against licensed prostitution."

#### PROPOSED SUBJECTS FOR PAPERS:—

(A.) "The drawbacks of special labour legislation for women."

(B.) "The final aim of the Women's Question."

Lady Aberdeen, in a "round-letter" to the Councils in each country, asks that the Standing Orders should be noted which state that all notices of motion, amendments to the Constitution, and other suggestions, must be sent in fourteen months before the meeting, viz., by 1st May, 1898.

The Committee of arrangements will be summoned to meet in June or July of next year (1898), so that the agenda for the quinquennial meeting as accepted by that Committee, may be sent to all the Federated Councils for their consideration a year before the meeting. It is also requested that representatives from each Council shall attend that Committee with full instructions.

Lady Aberdeen proceeds to point out that if the Council is to become a real living force, considerable self-sacrifice will be necessary on the part of representatives of the several Councils who will be called upon to leave home and incur expense and inconvenience from time to time.

She expressed disappointment at the small attendance at the Executive in July, and says that, if the International Council is to do its work effectively, *Federated Councils must be prepared to undertake to send representatives to the meetings, which take place periodically.* She said she was convinced that the Council needed an office and a paid secretary, and that not less than £300 a-year would be necessary. If a certain number of public spirited women in each country would undertake to collect or subscribe a sufficient sum for this purpose she had great hopes that the International Council would prove a great factor in the work of women throughout the world, but without this she felt it would be an impossibility. She herself had paid all the secretary's expenses so far, but she did not think it was fair to her, nor good for the Council, that she should continue to do it. She would feel it incumbent on her to resign office next year unless some improvement is made in this direction.

Unless above himself he can  
Erect himself, how poor a thing is man.  
—*The Excursion.*