

# WOMEN WHO THINK

The Eighth Annual Congress of the  
Woman's Council in Session.

## EXCELLENT PROGRAMS PREPARED

Subjects to Be Treated Have a Wide  
Range and Are of More Than  
Ordinary Interest.

It is, unfortunately, that, outside of the one hundred or so women who have always kept closely in touch with all movements of the Woman's Council, the changes made a year ago in its plans seem never to have been fully understood. At that time, yielding to pressure within and criticism from without, the council changed its plan of monthly parliaments, in which the chief feature was papers, to quarterly meetings devoted to business transactions and practical discussions. These discussions were intended to lead the way to action and to some extent have done so; but there has seemed to be a great falling off in demands for council action since the organization has placed itself in a position to take action consistently. Similarly the public has seemed to regard the concentration of the activity of the meetings in quarterly affairs as an indication of a falling off of interest and importance, while its true reason was to improve the quality and value of the meetings.

In the new plan, all of the "talk" which had hitherto been distributed through the year was to be saved up for the annual congress in November, which it is believed would have an increased interest and importance through having more good material to select from and having nothing to detract from its interest.

The eighth annual congress opened yesterday afternoon at the Unitarian church, with an attendance, not nearly what it deserved to be, for an excellent program had been prepared, which was neither hurried nor crowded, giving each speaker an opportunity to appear at her best. The program was given by the departments of philanthropy and reform and was presided over by Mrs. A. E. Higbee, president of the council. It covered political, moral and aesthetic phases of these subjects. Miss Taylor, secretary of the American committee of the Young Women's Christian Association, spoke briefly on the vital principles of the association. As an illustration of one department of practical work, a class from the gymnasium, including the Misses Lewis, Morison, McVeigh and Shannon, gave a club-swinging exercise under the direction of Miss Bertha B. Lash.

Mrs. Lydia Phillips Williams, in her talk on "Social Conditions in Hawaii," and Dr. Cora Smith Eaton in her paper on "Women and War," in which she voiced the sentiments of the anti-expansionists, of whom she believed women were a large part; touched upon political questions, although the former only did so incidentally in showing the problems that have to be met in formulating a suitable form of government for Hawaii. These problems are intemperance, opium, licentiousness and trusts. The operation of the contract labor system was sketched and the admirable educational facilities were described. Mrs. Williams refuted the statements made that the descendants of the missionaries are robbers, saying that, while they are not wealthy through their landed property, they came by it honestly.

Dr. Eaton gave a slight historical sketch of what women have done in war both in their proper persons and disguised as soldiers, as a preliminary to a brief but pointed consideration of the claim that women should not be entitled to vote because they cannot bear arms, which she disposed of by saying that they can and do bear arms, and if permitted, could and would render valuable military services in military housekeeping in the commissary department and in the medical department, the mismanagement and inadequacy of which, in recent wars, has occasioned many more deaths than the casualties of battles. She further set forth the counter claim that if this argument was to be considered it must apply equally to men enlisted for and exempt from military service, which would include a very large share of the most valuable voting population under existing laws.

While women are natural peace lovers, they are not averse to war in a just cause, and therefore favored the war for independence, the war of the union and the war of liberation in Cuba. For the same reason they oppose war in the Philippines, not upon sentimental grounds, but upon those of legality and wholesale policy for the future of the nation.

Professor Maria Sanford of the university spoke on "The Dispensary System of Dealing with the Liquor Traffic," favoring it upon the ground that it greatly improved social conditions, while it in no way hindered the ultimate adoption of complete prohibition, which she strongly favored. This she recognized could not be obtained or enforced in all localities and in such she believed the dispensary system could do much good. Its chief advantage was that it enlisted the support of those who do not believe that it is right to attempt to decide what people shall eat and drink. These people usually favor anything which cuts off excesses, like the proposed plan.

Mrs. G. M. Loring gave a paper on "National Park and Outdoor Art Association," recounting the chief features of the convention in Detroit and describing the way the principals of the association are applied in Detroit.

The program of the departments of patriotism and temperance in the evening was presided over by Mrs. M. E. Hoover of the latter department, while the opening remarks were made by Mrs. Alice C. Warrington, chairman of the patriotic department. She said that it would be a patriotic duty to blot out the destructive traffic which has caused so much misery and crime. Mrs. Annie Keller of the Woman's Relief Corps read a paper on "Our Army" and Miss Mary Hoyt of the Ladies of the G. A. R. on "Our Navy"; both were historical and descriptive. Mrs. May Lee Blye of the Allied Orders, gave a spirited reading of "Our Nation's Volunteers."

Taking up temperance, Miss Sabra M. Ethington discussed "What Can Be Done by Organization?" and Mrs. H. H. Dutcher gave an address on "Live Issues, or the Mere Practical Way," an argument for the cure of inebriates.

The two remaining programs offer much of timely interest and importance. The chief paper this evening will be by Mrs. D. C. Bell on "Zionism, a Star of Hope." This will contain much of interest to Jewish people as well as others, for Mrs. Bell was present at the conference in Switzerland this year. This address will be the contribution of the church department. The civic and social department will be represented by three-minute talks from its members on the work of the department, being chiefly in the line of personal investigations of various institutions and industries of the city. Mrs. J. L. Crays, chairman of the department, will give a fuller discussion of the postal savings banks. Mrs. Louise Jewell Manning will represent the philosophical department, speaking on "The Real Magician in Everyday Life."

Tomorrow afternoon will be divided between two important symposiums that will bring forward many bright thinkers and speakers. "The Transvaal Question Up to Date," will be treated by the Kenyon Classes and Clio Club, which study history. "The Jews," a literary symposium, will be made up of the following brief talks: "The Present Status of the Jews," Mrs. H. F. Brown, Nineteenth Century Club; "Our Indebtedness to the Ancient Jews," Dr. Mary Y. Hartzell, Woman's Medical Club; "Jewish Colony in China," Mrs. Robert Jamison, Tourist Club; "The Ghetto," Mrs. T. F. Quinby, Rambler; "Shakespeare's Attitude Toward the Jews," Mrs. F. N. Stacy, Shakespeare Club; "Jews in Germany," Mrs. L. L. Longbrake, Kenwood Monday Club; "Nathan the Wise," Mrs. Fullerton, Elective Club; "Rothschild," Mrs. E. M. La Fendler, Columbian Study Club; "Jewish Women in Literature," Mrs. T. J. Gray, Current Events and Literary Club; "Philanthropists," Miss Winifred Sea-

comb, Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae "Doraell," Mrs. A. K. Norton, Tuesday Club; "Expulsion of Jews from Russia," Mrs. Louise Watson, Chicago Avenue Literary Club; "Zangwill," Miss Jessie Schulten, Kappa Kappa Gamma; "Rachel," Mrs. Elijah Barton, Alternates; "Zola-Dreyfus Affair (Jews Relation to)," Mrs. J. B. Kearney, Travelers.