

cation of the golden rule to society, law and custom."

According to the provisions of its constitution, the National Council of Women of the United States, assembled at the capitol city of the United States in 1891, three years from the date of its organization, and at that meeting Mrs. Potter Palmer, President of the Board of Lady Managers of the Columbian Exposition, on behalf of that body, extended a cordial invitation (seconded by the Vice-President of the Woman's Branch of the World's Congress Auxiliary, Mrs. Charles Henrotin), to the National Council to hold this proposed World's Council of Women in Chicago at the time of the Columbian Exposition. Acting upon this invitation, the American officers of the International Council, viz.:—Clara Barton, Vice-President; May Wright Sewall, Vice-President *ex-officio*; and Rachel Foster Avery, Corresponding Secretary—in the spring of 1892 applied to the officers of the World's Congress Auxiliary for the privilege of convening the quinquennial session of the International Council under the Women's Branch of this body. After considerable correspondence, it was mutually agreed to substitute in the place of that regular meeting of the International Council, a convention to be called the World's Congress of Representative Women, having a distinct object peculiarly appropriate to the Columbian Exposition, namely, that of a Memorial Congress, celebrating the progress of women throughout the whole world, since the discovery of the American continent in 1492.

In this Memorial Congress, the National and International Councils appeared simply as representatives of one feature of women's progress, namely, their ability to organize women's work, and thus to bring to the highest effectiveness the powers they may possess; but it is an incontrovertible fact, that the immense influence of that great meeting was largely due to the organized work of the Councils, National and International, which had preceded its convocation.

The representatives from the many organizations of women in European countries expressed themselves as greatly pleased with the plan of the International Council, and desirous of having their fellow-workers at home become conversant with its methods. At the Business Session of the International Council of Women, Vice-Presidents and Secretaries were elected for twenty-eight countries; in those countries where National Councils already exist allied to the International Council, their Presidents become the Vice-Presidents of the International Council.

It is well to note the fact that this Council idea, both National and International, is not a multiplying of organisations, but rather a concentration of the power of organisations already existing; it is not merely the gathering together of an army of women interested in any number of different objects and held together only by the general interest of desiring inter-communication between the women of different nations; it is the coming together of armies of women already well disciplined in their different lines of attack upon ignorance, prejudice or vice in order to concentrate their efforts, and show to the world what womanhood is doing.

Instead of individuals or even local associations being able to connect themselves directly with the International body, they become parts of it only by

virtue of their membership in National organizations which have come into official membership in the National Council of the country of which they are citizens. It is strictly a delegate body, where ideas, not individuals, are represented.

The present officers of the International Council of Women are: the Countess of Aberdeen, England, President; May Wright Sewall, United States, Vice-President; Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg, Finland, Treasurer; Eva McLaren, England, Corresponding Secretary; and Maria Martin, France, Recording Secretary.

RACHEL FOSTER AVERY.

Science Notes.

WATER FILTRATION AND TYPHOID BACILLI.

IN this column a fortnight since some statistics were given relating to the cholera epidemic in Hamburg in 1892, showing the efficacy of filtration through sand to remove micro-organisms from water. Although it seems unlikely that different species of microbes should be differently affected by filtration, there yet appear to be circumstances under which filtration is not effective in removing typhoid bacilli.

Two independent investigators have been at work testing the efficiency of porous filters to remove typhoid bacilli from water. Their results appear, on a superficial examination, to be contradictory, inasmuch as one found bacilli in the filtrate after an interval of forty eight hours, while the other kept the filtrate clear for twenty four days. In the latter case, however, great care was exercised to add as little as possible of the infected "broth" in which the bacilli had been cultivated; when, on the contrary, about one per cent. or rather less of the broth was added with the bacilli to the water previous to filtration, they became abundant in the filtrate. The probable explanation is, that the supply of nutritive fluid favoured the increase in numbers of the organisms, and when a few were carried into the filter, they multiplied so vigorously that the younger generations reached the other side; or in other words, individual bacilli did not pass through the filter, but chains of bacilli were developed until the filter was penetrated by them.

These experiments do not necessarily prove that typhoid microbes are more difficult to remove from our water supply than cholera microbes; a greater depth of filtering material might be effective where a shallow filter failed, and it is doubtful if river-water is ever so rich in material nutritious to the microbes as a one per cent. solution of a specially prepared fluid such as that employed in the experiments described.

An attempt was made in 1872, by an experiment on an extensive scale, to ascertain whether typhoid germs could remain in water during and after filtration. The particulars are recorded in the "6th Report of the Rivers Pollution Commissioners," and although it is not clear whether the water in question was really filtered or not, the case is a very interesting one.

At the small village of Lausen, near Bâle, a severe epidemic of typhoid occurred, where no similar out-

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