

3. Are you in favour of making parents the equal joint guardians of their children?

4. Are you in favour of providing that in any change in the Divorce Laws the equality of the sexes should be recognised?

5. Are you in favour of legalising the adoption of children, with proper safeguards?

6. Are you in favour of granting to women the right to retain British nationality on marriage with an alien (a right enjoyed by them under the laws of the United Kingdom until 1870), and that she should be given the same choice of nationality as a man?

7. Would you support legislation to increase the responsibility of the father for his illegitimate child?

All the questions were approved. Further information *re* No. 5 was desired, and it was agreed to draw the attention of the Legislation Committee N.C.W. to the omission of any reference to the important national question of the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and to invite the N.C.W. to include the following question in its list:—

8. Are you in favour of legislation for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, providing for an independent Governing Body with adequate representation of the Nurses themselves?

WOMEN AS MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

5. A letter was received from Mrs. Vulliamy, Cambridge, Chairman of a Committee formed to promote the candidature of independent women as members of Parliament, in which she wrote:—
“We feel that any reforms which Societies exist to promote or any subjects on which women's opinions are organized, would gain immensely by having an independent M.P. always on the alert to watch their interests and to remind the Government of its importance.”

We shall be very glad if you will consider the policy of running a candidate and working for her through your Society, and if so will give you any advice or help that is in our power. We wish to point out that even if the candidate is unsuccessful, an election campaign would give an opportunity for more effective propaganda than any other means now available.

You have probably heard that two nurses have been returned to the Canadian House of Representatives, and a nurse would undoubtedly be a popular candidate just now.”

This letter was received with evident pleasure, all present agreeing that National Health and Nursing questions would receive more consideration in the House of Commons if in charge of an expert.

A NURSE M.P.

Miss Wade then proposed and Miss H. L. Pearse seconded the following Resolution:—

“That the National Council of Trained Nurses, in Annual Meeting assembled, hereby invite Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, to stand for election as a Member of Parliament to represent the interests of the Nursing Profession.”

Mrs. Fenwick said she felt much gratified by this mark of confidence of the Council. She

feared it was too late to stand as a candidate in the present election, but she would accept nomination on the Nursing and National Health Ticket when a suitable constituency could be found.

This decision was greeted with much applause.

ELECTION OF HON. OFFICERS.

Vice-President.

As no Vice-President was elected in 1915, it was agreed that there should be no change until next year.

Directors.

Miss Carson Rae's term of office having expired, Miss Lucy Ramsden was nominated in her stead.

Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer.

Miss Beatrice Cutler and Miss Christina Forrest were unanimously re-elected to office for the ensuing year, and the thanks of the Council expressed for their valuable services.

The Presidents of the Matrons' Council, the National Union of Trained Nurses, and the Irish Nurses' Association were confirmed as *ex officio* members of the Council.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

A courteous communication was received from the Royal British Nurses' Association notifying that a Consultative Committee had been formed in connection with the Chartered Corporation, and extending to the National Council an invitation to affiliate with it.

The intimation that the Royal British Nurses' Association was co-ordinating Nurses' Organizations was received with pleasure, and it was reported that the four largest Nurses' Societies in the National Council had accepted the invitation—the Matrons' Council, the Society for State Registration, the National Union, and the Irish Nurses' Association—and to avoid duplication it was agreed that for the present it might be better for the smaller societies to take independent action, and thus avoid any suspicion of coercion—to which the self-governing Leagues of Nurses so strongly objected. The National Council would work in complete harmony with the Royal British Nurses' Association, and hoped that the Royal Corporation would take an active interest in its International programme.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

A letter had been received from Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, pointing out that owing to the war the triennial Meeting due this year must be postponed, and it was improbable that it could take place until 1920. Those present expressed the opinion that international intercourse between the nurses of various countries was of the utmost benefit to all, and the proposal to hold an Interim Meeting in 1919, as had been done in 1901 and in 1907, was warmly received. It was agreed that Trained Nurses had covered themselves with glory all over the world during the war, and a gathering of the

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