

sideration to this important duty. The Constitution was then forwarded to all the members, and finally adopted, after full discussion of the suggestions made in writing by absent members at the meeting of the Provisional Committee held in London in July, 1900. At the same meeting Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was, by the balloting papers sent out, elected President of the International Council of Nurses, and Miss L. L. Dock, of the United States, and Miss Snively, of Canada, both Hon. Members of the Matrons' Council, were elected respectively Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer by a large majority of votes.

In February of last year the Council communicated with the First Lord of the Admiralty (then Mr. Goschen) and the Secretary of State for War (then Lord Lansdowne), and expressed the opinion that the system of nursing the sick and wounded in Naval and Military hospitals was unsatisfactory and in need of re-organization. They petitioned these Ministers to receive a deputation from the Council, so that it might explain the views of the members on the reforms in their opinion necessary in the Nursing Departments of these services.

On behalf of Mr. Goschen, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Civil Lord of the Admiralty, received a deputation of the Hon. Officers, when the President presented a Report in writing.

Lord Lansdowne, then Secretary of State for War, regretted that "pressure of public affairs prevented him from receiving the deputation."

A Resolution was also sent to the London Obstetrical Society, urging upon it the desirability of requiring evidence of general training in nursing in candidates for their certificate. It is to be regretted that this Society, which certifies women with a few weeks' training in midwifery, refused to consider this question, which is of such vital importance to the poor.

The Nursing Directory has again been issued under the authority of the Council, and is a work of much importance, as it is the only Nursing Directory in this country which imposes a standard of training as a necessity for admission.

The Annual Conference was held at the Medical Societies' Rooms on July 5th and 6th, when the following papers were presented:—

A Poor Law Nursing Service:

Miss E. E. Julian, Matron of the Infirmary, Croydon, Member of the Matrons' Council.

The necessity for a Nursing Department in all Governmental Offices dealing with the Nursing of the Sick:

Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, late Lady Superintendent, Gordon House Home Hospital, Member of the Matrons' Council.

The Celebration by Trained Nurses of the New Century:

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Councillor, Matrons' Council.

The Reasons for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Three Papers from the Standpoint of:

The Medical Practitioner, Dr. F. S. Toogood, Medical Superintendent, the Infirmary, Lewisham.

The Trained Nurse, Miss H. Poole, Matron, the Infirmary, Blackburn, Member of the Matrons' Council.

The Patient, Mrs. Emily Crawford.

The Nursing of the Sick at Sea:

Le Comte C. de Cardi.

It was decided to form a Sub-Committee to facilitate the attendance of nurses at the Celebrations by Nurses of the New Century, to be held in the United States in 1901, and this has been done, and Mrs. Wates has kindly consented to act as Hon. Secretary to this Committee. A Resolution was also unanimously passed at the Conference, relative to the necessity for the re-organization on an efficient professional basis, including a Nursing Department under the direction of a trained and certificated nurse, of Government Offices dealing with the Nursing of the Sick, and this was subsequently forwarded to the Departments concerned. A Resolution, expressing the belief of the Conference that the State Registration of Nurses was a matter of urgent national importance, was also unanimously passed and forwarded to Medical Corporations and the Chairmen of the chief Nurse Training Schools.

At the time of the appointment of the South African Hospitals Commission, the Hon. Secretary wrote, on behalf of the Council, to Mr. Arthur Balfour, Leader of the House of Commons, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Burdett-Coutts, pointing out the need for the appointment of a trained Superintendent of Nursing on the Commission.

Much consideration has been given during the year to the Constitution of a National Council of Nurses, the decision ultimately arrived at being that it was necessary first of all to form a National League of Certificated Nurses, which might ultimately unite with the Matrons' Council to form the National Council of Nurses, and thus be eligible in co-operation with the nurses of other nations to enter the International Council of Nurses.

The following is the Constitution of the National League of Certificated Nurses as finally approved:—

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)