

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland took place at the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.C., on October 3rd, 4th and 5th, the President, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, being in the chair. We print below the business of the greatest interest to the nursing profession.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION.

Members elected by the Affiliated Societies.—"The Affiliated Societies shall elect twelve members who shall represent them on the Executive Committee. Such representatives shall serve for one year. No proxies shall be allowed."

A rider down on the Agenda, providing that nominations should be made during Council, and voting should take place before the end of Council, was not carried. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick pointed out that the Societies concerned would, in this case, have no opportunity of making nominations, and it was left with the Executive to arrange that such opportunity should be afforded to the Affiliated Societies.

RESOLUTIONS.

Special Work on the Women's Vote.—"That during the forthcoming year the N.U.W.W. shall endeavour:—

(a) To bring before the women of the country the new powers and responsibilities granted by the extension of the franchise to women under the Representation of the People Bill.

(b) To distribute information as to the qualifications for the women's Parliamentary vote; to appeal to women voters to use their vote for national purposes, and to bring prominently before them legislative measures of the first rank of importance in national reforms.

(c) To appeal to all women both voters and non-voters to relax in no way their efforts to help their country during these years of great danger, until the security of a lasting peace has been attained.

(d) To make widely known the industrial and economic position of women, as modified by, and dependent upon, the war conditions; and to prepare women for careful consideration of the national, imperial and international issues involved in the problems of reconstruction that will arise after the war."

Ministry of Health.—"That the National Council of Women urges the Government:—

(a) To establish a Ministry of Health;

(b) To include women in such Ministry."

Ministry of Health (Scotland).—"That a separate Ministry of Health be established for Scotland with the Secretary for Scotland or some other member of the Government as Scottish Minister of Health directly responsible to Parliament, and that women be included in such Ministry."

A Resolution in reference to Poor Law Nursing was withdrawn by the mover.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"LORD TONY'S WIFE."*

Lovers of the "Scarlet Pimpernel" will rejoice to meet again this daring, intrepid and baffling gentleman. Once again he risks his life and happiness to rescue lives from the terror of the guillotine. Once again his chivalry is laid at the feet of his friends, and is the means of reuniting husband and wife after hairbreadth escapes.

It was at a ball at the assembly rooms in Bath that Lord Tony prevailed upon Yvonne, daughter of M. le Duc de Kernogan, to marry him secretly at daybreak next day. Secretly, because M. le Duc had other plans for his lovely daughter, in short he had planned to marry her to M. Martin Roget, supposed to be devoted to the Royalist cause in France and to be of great wealth.

But all this was supposition; Roget in reality was a Republican and had his own reasons for hating M. le Duc and his family, and his courtship of Yvonne was but a means to attain his vile ends.

But Yvonne married her Protestant lover, Lord Tony, at daybreak and M. le Duc raged in vain.

"Yvonne! his Yvonne! the sole representative now of the old race, eloped like a kitchen wench. In addition to the shame upon her father she had also brought disgrace upon herself and her good name, for she was a minor and this clandestine marriage contracted without her father's consent was illegal in France, illegal everywhere.

Something must be done to get his daughter back. Would Martin Roget stick to his bargain, accept the girl for his wife, now that her fame and honour had been irretrievably damaged?"

It is difficult to imagine that the proud old French nobleman could contemplate giving his beautiful daughter to such a man as Roget, whose brutality showed plainly under the veneer that M. le Duc mistook for patriotism.

The plot arranged by these two men to kidnap Yvonne and forcibly take her abroad was carried out, and it was then that the Scarlet Pimpernel came to the rescue. Lord Tony, broken-hearted at his bride's disappearance, repaired to his friend, and the Scarlet Pimpernel promised his help.

Lord Tony had gone, and for the space of five minutes Sir Percy Blakeney stood in front of the hearth staring into the fire. Something lay before him, something had to be done, which represented the heavy price that had to be paid for those mad and happy adventures. Amid the dancing fire-light he could see Marguerite's blue eyes, her ardent hair, her tender smile all pleading with him not to go.

And to-day it was his friend, his comrade, who had come to him in distress; the young wife whom he idolised was in the most dire peril that could threaten any woman.

The minutes sped on. Blakeney's eyes were

* By Baroness Orczy. Hodder & Stoughton.

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