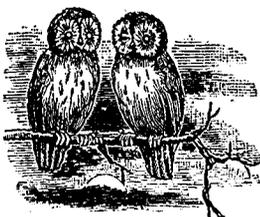


can only be obtained with certainty by the use of antiseptics. It is no longer an experiment, the thing has been tried and proved, and its adoption has produced a complete revolution in our lying-in hospitals, which now, for all the bad name they had during so many years as deadly centres of infection, have, by the simple adoption of antiseptic methods, become the safest places in which a woman can be confined.

The expense is not great; cotton wool and perchloride of mercury do not cost much; but the trouble, doubtless, is considerable. If we undertake midwifery, however, this trouble we are in honour bound to take, for on it hangs the lives of the patients entrusted to our care.

### Matrons in Council.



THE following is the Programme of the second Conference of the American Association of Superintendents of Training Schools, which is convened to meet at Boston, U.S.A., on February 13th.

#### PROGRAMME.

*First Session. Wednesday, February 13th, 10-12 a.m.*  
Reading Minutes of Previous Meetings, Reports from Committees and Officers.

*Second Session. Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.*  
Paper by Miss Dock, Superintendent Illinois Training School, "Nurses' Directories."

Paper by Mrs. Hunter Robb, late Superintendent Johns Hopkins Training School, "Three Years' Course of Training in connection with Eight Hours System."

Discussion by Miss Davies, University Hospital, Philadelphia, Miss Walker, Presbyterian Hospital, and others.

Paper by Miss Drown, Superintendent Nurses' City Hospital, Boston, "A Plan of Informing Training School Superintendents of Dismissed Pupil Nurses and Probationers."

*Third Session. Thursday, 10-12 a.m.*

Paper by Miss Brennan, Superintendent Nurses, Bellevue Hospital, New York: subject not announced.

Paper by Miss Palmer, late Superintendent Garfield Hospital, Washington, D.C., "Training School Alumnae Societies; Numbers in America with Synopsis of Constitutions."

*Fourth Session. Thursday, 2-4 p.m.*

Paper by Miss Snively, Lady Superintendent General Hospital, Toronto, Canada; Subject: "Uniform Curriculum of Study for Training Schools."

Leader in Discussions, Miss Darche, Superintendent New York City Training School, Blackwells Island, New York City.

### INFIRMARY MATRONS UNDER THE POOR LAW.

MADAM,—I was greatly disappointed I was unable to be present at the Conference in connection with the Matrons' Council, when Miss Mollett read her admirable paper on our position under the present regulations. Owing to your kindness in printing it in the NURSING RECORD, I have, however, read it, and thoroughly agree with the views expressed therein. It is quite evident that Miss Mollett has formed her opinions after personal experience, and I cannot understand any conscientious woman upholding the present system. Every privilege we enjoy, the mere concession of power to perform our duty, we owe to the courtesy of the Medical Superintendent and not to *right*; I was greatly pleased to observe that you called the meeting to order on this point. The present friction does not arise from incompatibility of temper upon the part of Matrons and Medical Superintendents, but upon the false basis upon which their respective duties are formed by the Local Government Board.

When may we hope for justice—and in consequence a remedy? Not, I fear until women have a seat on that same Board; and bring practical instead of theoretical experience to bear upon these questions of the fitness of sex for certain responsibilities. Allow me to convey to Miss Mollett, and to yourself, my sincere appreciation of your views, and my gratitude as a long-suffering Infirmary Matron for the efforts of the Matrons' Council in giving the subject publicity.

I am, Madam,

"A MATRON UNDER THE POOR LAW."

### Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



FOR the future the reports which will appear in this column concerning the Royal British Nurses' Association, will be non-official, and for that reason they will doubtless be of more value and interest to our readers.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee took place on Friday the 1st inst., at 5 p.m., at which Her Royal Highness, the President, took the

Chair.

The Spring Session of the Educational Lectures opened on Monday the 4th inst., at the Office at 4 p.m., when Miss Isla Stewart delivered a most instructive address, the first of a series of twelve lectures on Practical Nursing.

Miss Isla Stewart is mistress of her subject, and we are not surprised that her course on Practical Nursing proved the most popular part of the whole course in the past Session. We advise all women who are interested in Nursing, and who can spare the time, to attend these most practical and valuable lectures.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick regrets that she will not be able to deliver the Practical Demonstration on "The Nursing of Rectal and Abdominal Surgical Cases" before the Association on the 15th inst.

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