

working life little longer than the period of her training.

Even in those Hospitals where candidates are admitted at twenty-three, the Nurse cannot—if she finish the four years' training which many Hospitals are instituting—begin her professional life till she is twenty-seven, which is much too old for a woman who depends on her own exertions for present and future.

It will be denied on many sides that the age limit is, in reality, placed on good workers who are past the age of thirty-five. But it cannot be refuted that it is well nigh impossible for a Nurse who has passed this unhappy period to be received on the staff of a private Nursing Institution. "We had an ancient and decrepit person sent us from ——— Nursing Institute," said a man recently, in a complaining way, to the writer of this article, who promptly made enquiries at headquarters as to the real age of this "ancient and decrepit person." By her birth certificate she was shown to be thirty-eight, and there is not a grey hair in her head. But the public apparently likes its Nurses fresh and young, and are forgetful that women who no longer answer to this description, have the need to live, and suffer from hunger and thirst just as much as their more youthful sisters. In a future article, some of the solutions to this age problem will be advanced. That it is a very real and pressing problem, there are only too many evidences in the hardships encountered by numberless Nurses who have passed the "fatal age." Indeed, it would appear that in the Nursing world the axiom "Abandon hope after you have entered your thirty-sixth year" is to be universally accepted.

A. K.

Conference of American Matrons.

THE following interesting Questions will be discussed at the fourth Annual General Meeting of the Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, to be held at Baltimore, U.S.A., in February, 1897:—

(1) "The Brooklyn Associated Alumnae Registry," by Miss Isabel Merritt, Brooklyn City Hospital. Leaders in Discussion: Miss Darche New York City Training School; Miss Littlefield, Episcopal Hospital, Philadelphia.

(2) "Trained Nursing for People of Moderate Incomes," by Miss Kimber (Englishwoman), New York City Training School. Leaders in Discussion: Miss Nourse, Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago; Miss Allerton, Homoeopathic Hospital, Rochester.

(3) "What Has Been Accomplished in the Direction of Uniform Curriculum?" by Miss

McKechnie, City Hospital, Wilkes-Barre. Leaders in Discussion: Miss Snively, City Hospital, Toronto; Miss Hintze, Orange Memorial Hospital.

(4) "The Progress Made Toward Establishing a Three-Years' Course in Training Schools for Nurses," by Miss Walker, (Englishwoman), Pennsylvania Hospital, (Phil.) Leaders in Discussion: Mrs. Gretter, Farrand Training School; Miss McIsaac, Illinois Training School.

(5) "The Problem of the Nursing in Small Hospitals," by Miss Bannister, Wisconsin General Training School. Leaders in Discussion: Miss Nevins, Garfield Hospital.

A Typical "Conference."

ON Wednesday, the 2nd instant, a few carefully-selected members of the Royal British Nurses' Association were commanded to meet in Conference concerning the scheme to admit Asylum Attendants to membership and registration. Only about a dozen persons attended, amongst them being Sir Dyce Duckworth, Sir James Crichton-Browne, Mr. Edward Fardon, Dr. Bezly Thorne, Dr. Outterson Wood, Miss Thorold, and Mrs. Dacre Craven.

Letters were read from Matrons objecting to the scheme, and one lady present, upon being asked her opinion, expressed the strong feeling of disapproval felt by the Nurse members concerning it.

The objections advanced were, however, ignored, and a resolution was proposed by Sir Dyce Duckworth, seconded by Miss Thorold, and carried by this little meeting, approving of the admission of Asylum Attendants to the privileges of membership and registration of the Royal British Nurses' Association, with the addition of M.N. after their names—a distinction which will be no doubt construed by the public as an unusual and valuable qualification.

We understand that protesting members of the Association who were not present have been officially informed that the subject was fully considered in all its bearings, and the objections felt to the scheme by various members were freely expressed. No doubt the members of the General Council will receive the same report!

Our readers will observe from Miss Wingfield's letter on page 473, that this private and typical "Conference" is to be followed by a Public Meeting to discuss this vitally important question, and at which free speech will be possible not only upon this, but also upon other matters concerning the present management of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)