



A RECORD OF HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTION NEWS AND WORK.



Contents.

Editorial-Poor	Law	INFIR	MARIE	s.—II.		•••	33
REFLECTIONS	••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	34

Editorial.

POOR LAW INFIRMARIES .--- II.

E have promised to consider Mr. BURDETT'S statement in the Pall Mall Gazette, that "the abuses and horrors connected with the sick wards of some workhouses in this country, controlled by Guardians of the poor, equal, if they do not even surpass, the worst phases of official cruelty which the world has ever seen." We are by no means surprised that no attempt has been made by the author of this extraordinary charge, to produce any proof in support or justification of it, and, that he has not ventured to name one single Institution, as illustrative of the management which he condemns. Our readers may rest assured that if Mr. HENRY, C. BURDETT had any facts concerning horrors and abuses at any Poor Law Infirmary, he would have utilised them at

once to justify one of his appearances in print. The conclusion, therefore, is irresistible, that the present onslaught upon Poor Law Infirmaries is merely an example of the oldfashioned trick of drawing a red herring across the scent, and is actuated by the desire to divert public attention from the London Hospital. It therefore affords us much satisfaction to observe that no one has taken the trouble to answer Mr. BURDETT'S letter and charges in the Pall Mall Gazette, and that the advice, therefore, which we have given to one or two justly indignant correspondents, has been adopted. When the London Hospital question has been settled-and we trust that this time it will be settled permanently, so that the public mind shall cease to be distressed by the frequently recurring charges against the management of the Nursing Department of this great Charityit will be quite time enough to raise the question of Poor Law Infirmary management, and to demand from Mr. BURDETT chapter and verse for his sweeping charge of horrors, abuses, and cruelty. But, for the present, we desire very briefly to dissect the statement, and show what it means, if it means anything at all.



