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Editorial.

WORKHOUSE INFIRMARY NURSING.

DURING the last few years, many Nursing questions have assumed a position and importance which they never possessed before, and during the same period there have been marvellous changes made in the care of sick paupers. Workhouse Infirmaries have developed within the last quarter of a century from dirty, disorderly, wards in the ordinary workhouse building, into institutions which can only be described as palatial; because they have been built regardless of expense, they have been furnished with every appliance which the advance of medical science has produced, and are now officered by resident medical men of the highest attainments. But although efforts have been made with conspicuous earnestness and ability by the Local Government Board to introduce into these, and into all similar institutions throughout the country, the advantages of skilled Nursing, such attempts have to a large extent been nullified, if not altogether frustrated, by the apathy, the ignorance, the parsimony, or the carelessness, of the various Boards of Guardians. The consequence has been that it is now an almost weekly occurrence to find paragraphs in the daily press with the heading of "Another Infirmary Scandal." When these matters are traced to their source, it is almost invariably found that they arise from a failure to carry out in the Nursing department of the Infirmary those reforms and improvements which are acknowledged to be necessary in every general hospital, and which, in most

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