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EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

No. 608.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1899.

VOL XXIII.

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Editorial.

THE RISKS IN DISTRICT NURSING.

THE question of the efficient organization of district nursing is not so simple as it appears at first sight to the uninitiated. In country districts, if the services of a nurse are secured, committees are happy in the conviction that they have done all that can be required of them, but a moment's consideration will show that one nurse cannot, without risk to her patients, attend the variety of cases which are likely to be placed under her care. A district nurse for instance is frequently called upon to attend maternity cases, and there is no doubt that the services of a skilled nurse are of the greatest possible benefit to poor women in their confinements. But, a nurse who is responsible for general cases must obviously refuse to attend maternity cases knowing, as she well knows, the susceptibility of these women to infection. A large proportion of the patients ordinarily attended by district nurses suffer from cancer, chronic ulcers, enteric fever, abscesses, and the like, even cases of puerperal fever, should such occur, are within their province, and although, except in the last-named, a careful nurse may go from one to the other of these cases with impunity, it is obvious that there would be the very gravest

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