Nov. 30, 1901]. The Mursing Record & Hospital World.

way the arrangement would be a satisfactory one.

One suggestion we venture to make: To obtain the right class of nurse, the Guardians must pay an adequate salary, and we think that unless several nurses are living together, that this should at least be at the rate of \pounds 100 per annum.

THE NOTIFICATION OF CONSUMPTION.

The Stoke Newington Borough Council have adopted the following recommendation of their Public Health Committee :---" That the voluntary notification of consumption be adopted in the borough, and that the fees paid for such notification by medical practitioners be the same as those specified in the Public Health (London) Act of 1891 in reference to the diseases the notification of which is compulsory." Dr. H. Kenwood, the medical officer of the borough, has prepared a statement as to the action which it is proposed to take on this resolution :-- "(a) Forms will be issued to medical practitioners on which they are invited to notify (with the consent of the patient or those in charge of the patient) any case of consumption which may come under their notice and with respect to which the council would be of assistance in promoting preventive measures. (b) The preventive measures which the coun- \dot{cil} will undertake are as follows:- (1) A visit by the medical officer of health with the view of inspecting the surroundings of the patient, the conditions of work, &c. and the detection and removal of conditions likely to promote the disease; (2) verbal advice will be given and a printed handbill of instructions left at the house; (3) an offer will be made, free of all charge, to perform any necessary disinfection of rooms, bedding, &c.; (4) the house will be visited from time to time in order to see if the necessary precautions are being observed to prevent the spread of the disease; (5) arrangements will be made for examining without fee specimens of sputum from persons the nature of whose illness is dubious, in order to bring about a prompt diagnosis of the disease; (6) medical practitioners will be informed that the usual fees for notification will be paid for information of the existence of any cases of consumption which have not been previously notified from the same premises."

It would be well for all Borough Councils to adopt the same sensible methods of combating the ravages of phthisis.

IDedical IDatters. THE CAUSE OF HUNGER.

A German physician says we feel hungry when the bloodvessels of the stomach are comparatively empty. Many anæmic patients have no appetite even when the stomach is empty; but the blood-vessels of the stomach are not empty in such cases, but rather con-

gested. In healthy people, lack of blood in the stomach acts upon a special nerve, and all the characteristic symptoms of hunger follow. Now this hunger nerve, and the nerves of the mouth and tongue, are branches of the same nerve-trunk. Hence a stimulus applied to the tongue, by a spice for example, creates or increases appetite. On the other hand, when the nerves of the tongue are affected by a diseased condition of the mucous membrane ot the mouth, the patient has no appetite though his stomach may be empty, and he may be in actual need of food.

HEREDITY IN THE PRODUCTION OF MENTAL DISORDERS.

One of the features of the recent session of the York Medical Society was a paper by Dr. Savage on the influence of surroundings in the production of mental disorder. The object of this paper was to point out that, although heredity in nervous and mental disorders is a power, there are other things that may be as powerful, and one may look forward hopefully to the treatment of the mind diseased, because the main causes and conditions which lead thereto may be removed. He considers that in some disorders of the mind the dangers of heredity have been much exaggerated. Much of the mental disorder met with arises from the surroundings of the sufferer and, in many cases, the individual is the cause of his own trouble. At the same time, it must be taken for granted that certain conditions can be transmitted from parent to offspring-longevity, for instance-and therefore heredity cannot be wholly ignored. To be neurotic is to be unstable beyond the ordinary limit. No doubt neurosis depends not only on transmission of nervousness, but may depend also on the degeneration, the decay, the demoralisation of the parents—that is to say, physical disorder may cause mental disorder. There is a power There is a power of adaption and a power of resistance. As to



