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Editorial.

NURSING IN WORKHOUSE INFIRMARIES.

THE Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association, which for twenty-two years has been doing admirable work in connection with workhouse nursing, has just issued a pamphlet on "The Present Condition of Nursing in Workhouse Infirmaries," which is an excellent summary of the situation. It is pointed out that the scarcity of nurses for Workhouse Infirmaries applies not only to small, but to large institutions. The Bristol Guardians, for instance, whose infirmary contains 557 beds, and who have made every effort to improve the condition of nursing, spent in the year ending October, 1901, £53 in advertising five vacancies in addition to over £20 for the expenses of selected candidates. The pamphlet also quotes the recently expressed views of medical, local government and other Journals, including the *Nursing Record*, on the subject, as well as some remarks of Miss Louisa Twining, the veteran pioneer of workhouse nursing reform, who ably pleaded in the *Economic Review* of July, 1901, for the formation of a State Department of Poor Law nursing, that nurses should be made independent of the workhouse master and matron in relation to nursing duties, for

the appointment of women inspectors of workhouses, and of boarded-out children, and for the classification of the sick, and the centralization of cases requiring nursing in district hospitals.

The Annual Report of the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association summarises thus the work of the past year. Total number of applications for nurses, 1,391. Nurses appointed, 844. Deputations to Local Government Board, 3, Memorials, 1, Special Interviews with members of Local Government Board, 2. Annual Gatherings of Nurses, 18. The Association did useful work during the year in collecting information in regard to the effect of the Local Government Board Nursing Order of 1897, the administrative and general condition of provincial and rural Infirmaries, and the present standard of nursing in these institutions. The result of these investigations were embodied in a statement laid before the President of the Local Government Board.

The report also notes that the Association was represented at the International Nurses' Congress at Buffalo by Miss C. J. Wood and Miss Amy Hughes, and gives some interesting statistics as to nurse members of the Association who have retained their posts for a considerable number of years.

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