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THE Nursing Record.

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The Hospital World.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

All communications of a literary nature should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

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Editorial.

THE ATHLONE NURSING SCANDAL.

PUBLIC attention has not been sufficiently directed to the serious statements which have been made against the management of the Workhouse Infirmary at Athlone. The Protestant rector of the town, the Rev. Dr. Campbell, demanded an inquiry by the Local Government Board into the methods of Nursing pursued in this Infirmary. It is not too much to say that the abuses which have been proved to exist in similar institutions were then shown to be present in the Athlone Infirmary to an enhanced degree. There are, however, certain peculiarities in the latter Infirmary which are almost confined to Irish institutions. It appears that the Guardians of the Poor of Athlone have entrusted the Nursing of the Athlone Workhouse Infirmary to four nuns, who take no payment for their services. Now, it may appear at first sight to be good for the ratepayers of Athlone that they should obtain gratuitous workers, and there can be no dispute that the moral tone of the Infirmary has probably been benefited by the leaven introduced by these Sisters of Mercy; but we must insist that the first essential required from workers in Hospital wards is that they shall be women who are fitted by education and experience to undertake the care of the sick. The religious life to which a Sister of Mercy is consecrated is above all praise, but it requires no argument to prove that it is not necessarily a complete training for a woman who has to watch and care for pauper patients. It is probable that, to a large extent, the discreditable facts which have been made public in conse-

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