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Editorial.

THE HOLBORN INFIRMARY.

FACTS which have recently occurred at the Holborn Infirmary are of sufficient importance to the Nursing world to merit the closest attention and consideration. We are informed that the feeling has for some time been expressed by certain members of the Board of Guardians that the Nursing Staff is insufficient in numbers and not possessed of the qualifications which are at the present day considered desirable for Nurses in Poor Law Infirmarys. The question has lately been raised at the Board, and in consequence Dr. Downes, the well-known Inspector of the Local Government Board, conferred with the Infirmary Committee. He expressed the hope that the Guardians would see their way to the adoption of a Probationer system. He told the Committee that the actual number of Nurses must depend on (1) the construction of the buildings, and (2) the nature of the cases. Assuming the cases were of a similar character to those in other metropolitan Infirmarys, he laid it down as a rough and quite provisional rule that, if the structural arrangements admitted, thirty beds or thereabouts in one large, and one or two small separation, wards, might be taken as a convenient unit of Nursing for general cases; that each unit should have one Nurse by day and one by night; that two units might be under one charge Nurse by day. In other words, this would mean an average working

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