

THE Nursing Record

EVERY SATURDAY
ONE PENNY.

AND

The Hospital World.
EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

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No. 573.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1899.

VOL XXII.

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Editorial.

THE IRISH NURSING QUESTION.

A NOTABLE step in Nursing Reform has been taken by the Irish Local Government Board, which has issued a circular of the conditions on which guardians can apply for recoupment, out of the Local Taxation (Ireland) account, for one half the salary of a nurse. The Board lays down a definite minimum qualification, and gives as a definition of the term, "trained nurse," "any person who has resided for not less than two years in a clinical or other hospital recognised by the Local Government Board, and who, after examination, has obtained from such hospital a certificate of proficiency in nursing." They decline to accept the certificate of any hospital except "a clinical hospital recognised by the medical examining bodies in Ireland, England, or Scotland, unless the non-clinical hospital has at least 150 beds for medical and surgical cases, and unless due provision is also made for giving the probationer nurses a course of training in the nursing of infectious diseases. In addition, the hospital should have a staff of at least one resident and two visiting physicians, and a trained head nurse. Such arrangements should likewise be made, including the giving of lectures and the holding of examinations, as shall satisfy the Local Government Board that sufficient opportunities are afforded to the persons undergoing instruction to become fully trained, experienced, and certificated nurses." We regard this document as a most important one.

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