

## ANOTHER POOR-LAW SCANDAL.

AN inquiry, which was held last week at a provincial Workhouse, elicited several facts of considerable importance as illustrative of the radical faults in the present organization of such institutions. Charges of misconduct were brought against the Master of the Workhouse, apparently by the medical officer. Inasmuch as these charges related to a nurse probationer, it may be presumed that there is no Superintendent of nurses at this workhouse or they would have been presented by her instead of by the medical officer. The chief charge is thus reported in the local press: "Mabel Eves, twenty-two years of age, stated that soon after she came to the workhouse as probationer nurse, the master commenced following her about and making love to her, and despite her protests, he eventually took to kissing and making love to her every time he had a chance, until she became afraid, and she complained to the medical officer." The first point that will occur probably to all trained nurses is, that if there had been a trained Superintendent at the Workhouse, the probationer could not have been subjected to such treatment at the hands of the master at all, and certainly it would not have continued for so long. The mere fact that such a charge could have been brought, in such terms, stamps the character of the discipline which must prevail in this particular institution. The inquiry exhibited the usual conflict of evidence, which is usually found in such cases; and, finally, the Local Government Board Inspector considered that the information given was not sufficiently specific, and the inquiry was adjourned for an indefinite time. The case, however, furnishes another proof of the great importance of a proper nursing organization, and the necessity of having a trained Superintendent of nurses in all Poor-Law institutions containing sick persons. We have so frequently insisted upon this matter before, that we may be forgiven for pointing out not only that the Local Government Board has shown itself to be completely in agreement with our views, but also that Boards of Guardians throughout the country, as scandals occur, find by such hard experience, that reforms are absolutely essential, and that they are demanded in the interests of the public as well as that of the nursing profession; because the constant friction and frequent disturbances, which now occur, are wasteful in money, time, and labour.

**Medical Matters.**

## LOCAL ANÆSTHESIA.



It is remarkable how comparatively seldom local anæsthesia is employed. Complete anæsthesia is still, and will always remain, a matter of dread to patients, but "some surgeons do not make any strenuous endeavours to avoid it when they could possibly do without it." The most profitable work for the surgeon is often connected with the painless treatment of common affections, such as piles, in people who would subject themselves to ordinary operative measures were it not for the fear of anæsthesia. In chloride of ethyl and the subcutaneous employment of cocaine and eucaine we have means that are really not half employed, and which deserve more careful consideration than they have yet obtained. The use of the latter prior to inserting the hypodermic needle is often of advantage, as its insertion, in cases of ingrowing nails and infected fingers is often almost as painful as the operation itself. Ophthalmic surgeons are nearly the only operators who use local anæsthesia to the full extent of its possibilities, but practitioners of other branches of surgery will probably sooner or later employ local anæsthesia more largely.

## HAY FEVER.

AN American physician has recently published a very interesting article on the "Prevention of Hay Fever." After a highly interesting historical review, and a brief survey of the results achieved in the past few years, the writer gives the results of his own investigations into the subject. His researches for a number of years regarding the causation of hay fever, had led him to believe that the pollen of the Roman wormwood is the active cause of the disease. By inhaling these pollen himself he produced the symptoms of hay fever. If the pollen were the exciting cause of the disease the proper treatment is easily imagined. The nostrils were freely irrigated with a harmless antiseptic solution, using the douche and atomizer. For this purpose hydrozone was found to be the most innocuous and most powerful germicide. Hydrozone is a watery solution of peroxide of hydrogen. At first it is used for irrigation diluted in the proportion of one ounce of hydrozone to twelve

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)