

Britain and in Ireland, endeavoured to raise the standard of nursing in Poor Law Infirmaries, and is much to be commended for what it has accomplished. We must nevertheless point out that, however desirous this Department may be to raise the standard of nursing education, it will not attain the best possible results until it also realizes that the question is an educational and professional one, and that just as it has found the need of medical representation amongst its members in order that it may obtain expert advice upon medical questions, so nursing also should be represented in its counsels by a competent superintendent of nursing, otherwise, with the best intentions, it will continue to fight the air, with regard to nursing questions, for another half century, and reforms will be won, in infirmary nursing, by a few Matrons with force of character, by sheer force of will, and at a heavy and unnecessary cost to themselves.

It is a hopeful sign of the times that not only do the nurses and the Local Government Board appreciate the importance of the Nursing question, but the lay press realizes it also. We commend to the attention of the nursing world, the leading article which appeared in the *Norwood News* on the 24th ult., in which the writer demonstrates that he has grasped the crux of the whole question. Such an article could not have been contributed by a lay writer in times past. The article, in which the Resolution sent by the Matrons' Council to the Local Government Board is quoted at length, concludes as follows: "In view of such a protest from so high an authority as this association, there appears no other course open for the Guardians but to allow the Matron to again exercise her full authority over the nurses, and if the Guardians do not of themselves give way, then the Local Government Board will probably give a decision adverse to the Guardians. That such a discussion should have arisen is regrettable enough, but it would be more regrettable if such a worthy body of officials as nurses were not protected, and one therefore rather admires the stand which the Matron and nurses are making. The ratepayers cannot but watch with interest the course of events."

The ratepayers are, indeed, closely concerned in this question, for they are responsible for the efficient care of the sick in their infirmary, and this is indissolubly bound up with the efficiency of the nursing staff.

Annotations.

LONDON'S SICK CHILDREN.

Lord Cadogan has written to the Press appealing for financial support for the Victoria Hospital for Children at Chelsea, and says that the donations have considerably fallen off, and that a debt has been contracted of £2,000 at the bankers. Lord Cadogan thinks that the impending removal of the Belgrave Hospital for Children to the other side of the river must throw an additional burden upon the Victoria Hospital, which will then be the only institution of the kind for children in the whole south-west district of London.

The expenses and the demands on the resources of this hospital are, indeed, continually increasing. Since it was founded the district in which it is situated has increased threefold in population, and there are now upwards of 160,000 children in its immediate neighbourhood.

We are a great supporter of special hospitals, especially those in which sick children are treated and cared for, and London's Hospitals for Children are amongst the most beautiful, as they are the most humanising of its many charitable institutions. When the sick children of the poor need help, who can refuse to give? Not the wealthy parents of all those lovely cherubs, who, in the exuberance of splendid health make merry in our spacious parks—more beautiful than any flower which in them blooms! Surely the gratitude of the rich for the blessings showered upon their own dear ones, will prompt them to give generously to the sick children of the poor. Such gifts should be spontaneous and eagerly poured forth.

A WOMAN'S HOSPITAL GUILD.

Some energetic women have formed themselves into the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital Guild, and on Thursday in last week, held their first annual meeting at the Hospital in the City Road. Mrs. M. Tweedy, who presided, said that the Guild had already done good work in supplying clothing for the poorer patients, and linen for the wards. Their great desire now was to help the hospital financially. It was sad to find an institution, unique in its position as a pioneer and teacher in eye diseases, struggling and handicapped in its work by the want of funds. A fund of £80,000 would defray the annual expenses of rent, rates, and

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