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**Editorial.**

**A NEW NURSING ORDER.**

IT will be remembered that in May last the Judicial Committee of the Irish Privy Council met to consider the petition of Boards of Guardians throughout the country requesting the Lord Lieutenant in Council to withdraw his approval of the sealed Order of the Irish Local Government Board, of February 4th, 1901. The prevalence of grossly inadequate nursing arrangements in the majority of workhouse infirmaries, concerning which evidence was taken, was shown, on this occasion, and though the Committee eventually advised his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant to disallow the Order of 1901, they reported that evidence had been given establishing to their satisfaction the necessity for some rule or Order which will make better provision for efficient nursing.

The Irish Local Government Board has not been slow to take action in accordance with this recommendation, and has issued to Irish Boards of Guardians a new Sealed Order in the place of the one disallowed last May, in which the "Nurse of the Workhouse" is made

responsible for the good nursing of the sick, for the satisfactory discharge of the duties of the nursing staff, and for carrying out the directions of the medical officer with respect to all medicines and medical appliances. She is also held responsible for the proper condition of everything connected with the patients, for the cleanliness, and due ventilation, warming and lighting of the wards, for the proper distribution of food, and for the carrying out of the treatment ordered by the medical officer in each case. She is to be subordinate to the Board of Guardians and to the Medical Officer only, save as regards the general disciplinary control of the master of the workhouse.

The Order further provides that Boards of Guardians, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board in each case, shall appoint as many "qualified nurses" to assist the nurse of the workhouse as the latter Board considers necessary. The Local Government Board therefore retains in its own hands the right to ensure the appointment of a nursing staff which shall be numerically adequate to the needs of the sick. It will be observed that the "Nurse of the Workhouse" in Irish Infirmaries is thus placed in a better position than her col-

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