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**Editorial.**

**POOR LAW NURSING.**

IT is a source of constant and increasing satisfaction to us to observe the steady progress which is being made in the direction of reforms which for many years past we have advocated, in season and out of season; and it affords no less pleasure to observe the degree of interest and knowledge now exhibited by both the medical profession and the lay public in the progress of such reforms. Let us take, for example, the reports published in the Irish Press of a Conference held on August 29th, of delegates from all the Poor Law Unions in Ireland, for the purpose of "taking counsel as to the best course to adopt for the protection of the public interests involved in the nursing question." Those reports furnish most interesting reading, but we have only space to consider the remarks made by Dr. Laffan, of Cashel, which were much to the point and which display a remarkably close acquaintance with the whole question. With the majority of the gentleman's views we are in close agreement. For example, we have often expressed our opinion that there should be a uniform standard of training,

a uniform curriculum of education, and a general examining board for nurses; and furthermore that the workhouse infirmaries of the United Kingdom might, with much advantage, be made more useful than at present as nurse-training schools. But we must emphasize our belief that it is impossible to thoroughly train a nurse in any workhouse infirmary which contains less than 200 beds set apart for the treatment of the sick; and for the simple reason that, with any smaller number of patients, there would not be a sufficient number of acute medical and surgical cases to afford the nursing staff proper training and experience. The difficulty, referred to by various speakers at this Conference, of providing trained nurses for small infirmaries, or workhouse sick wards, could never be surmounted by the method proposed by one lady, and which seemed to appeal also to other speakers, that probationers could be trained in institutions containing only "ten to thirty" beds. There could not be, in so small a number, material sufficient for one probationer's training, and to have a superintendent nurse and a trained nurse and probationer, or even two probationers, for such a number of patients, that is to say, for both

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