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EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

No. 711.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1901.

VOL. XXVII.

Editorial.

WHO TEACHES NURSING?

THE recent Nursing Order of the Irish Local Government Board has aroused much discussion, and Irish Boards of Guardians are vigorously demanding an early revision of the Order. The action of the Local Government Board is undoubtedly an honest attempt to raise the standard of nursing in Irish Workhouse Infirmaries, and consequently to ensure the better care of the sick committed to its care, the mistake of the Order, in our opinion lies in the fact that it virtually limits the eligibility of nurses for Poor Law appointments to those trained in Dublin hospitals, whereas the certificate of a proportion of the County Hospitals might with advantage be recognized as qualifying for these appointments. The decision of the Irish Local Government Board is no doubt based on the belief that the hospitals having the largest number of beds must necessarily afford the best training ground. Within limits this is true, but a more important point than the number of beds is the efficient organization of the training school, and far better nurses are unquestionably turned out from a school of a comparatively small number of beds where good discipline and organization

prevail, than from one where numerically the size of the hospital is unexceptional, but where the clinical material is wasted for teaching purposes as the nursing school is unorganized.

Dr. Edward Thompson, one of the visiting staff of the County Tyrone Hospital, Omagh, has thrown himself earnestly into the discussion, and pleads the cause of the County Hospitals, and with much that he urges we are entirely in agreement. The training, for instance, at the County Tyrone Infirmary, Omagh, ranks high; the three years' standard is enforced, which is not the case in many Dublin Hospitals, and the Omagh Hospital nurses can without difficulty obtain responsible posts in English Hospitals, yet at present they are ineligible for appointments under the Irish Local Government Board. The publicity given to the question of what constitutes an efficient training in the present discussion will be entirely good, if it leads to the definition of a minimum curriculum. It is most necessary that such a curriculum for nurses should be laid down for all hospitals, and that there should be a public recognition of those institutions which conform to this standard. At present, as Dr. Thompson states, many Dublin hospitals are very backward in their methods

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