

the Nursing department of that Institution, and that they have actually, at a recent meeting, taken the deplorable and retrograde step of passing the following Resolution:—

"That so much of the report of the Infirmary Committee relating to the reorganisation of the Medical and Nursing Staff, which report was adopted by the Guardians on September 3rd, 1895, as related to the appointment of Probationer Nurses for the purpose of being trained at the Infirmary, Bow, be rescinded, there being at the present time no less than thirty centres in the metropolis alone where such work is carried on."

The Local Government Board had sanctioned the entire reorganisation of the Nursing Department on modern lines. They are now to be requested to permit the Guardians to revert to the obsolete system previously in force—that is, reliance upon supplying the Nursing staff from Nurses trained in other Institutions. We are all aware that this system has been long ago condemned as unsatisfactory in large Hospitals and Infirmarys, and that the only way to provide efficient Nursing for the sick is to carefully select—and carefully train for a definite period—the very best candidates who make application to the Matron for the purpose. We sincerely hope the Local Government Board will insist upon the Guardians of the City of London Union organising the Nursing Department upon lines which are proving quite satisfactory in the other Union Infirmarys under their control.

It is reported that a boy, "aged six years, recently swallowed a halfpenny. Unfortunately the boy is a confirmed story-teller, and beyond his own statement that he had swallowed the coin there was no evidence whether he had really done so or not. But the child did cough and choke after it, and he was sick a few hours after, and for the next few weeks he seemed languid and depressed, and cared for little beyond light and liquid food, and he persisted in saying that he had swallowed the coin. Though the parents and doctors thought that a halfpenny was too large a coin for such a little throat, they gave him the benefit of the doubt and had the patient examined by means of the Röntgen Rays. The abdomen was first photographed, with no result, but on the thorax being tried the coin was *most clearly* seen (figure, characters and all) to be lying in the œsophagus just where the trachea divides to branch off into each lung. The child was then taken to a throat specialist, put under an anæsthetic, and the surgeon tried with forceps to extract it, but, failing to do so, he pushed it down into the stomach, where he considered it to be safer. The little patient is much

brighter and happier now, but, though a week has elapsed, he has not yet got rid of it."

His elder brother has since been heard to make the following remark: "H'm, Fred has always been looking for a safe place to hide his money in; he's got a *good* purse for it now."

At the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, the Superintendent of the laundry is a trained Nurse. Mrs. Strong—ever wise and progressive—justly argues that it is only a trained Nurse who can be thoroughly conversant with the needs of a ward. It has been found that the well-known friction between laundry and ward has practically disappeared since the installation of a trained Nurse as Superintendent of the former department. And, of course, the training and knowledge acquired by the Superintendent is a most valuable preparation for a Matronship. There are also a Superintendent of cooking, and a Superintendent of needlework, who are both trained Nurses.

We have remarked before what rapid strides are being made in Scotland in the organisation of District Nursing, an immense impetus having been given to this good work by the ever progressing standard of training demanded under the Scottish Branch of the Queen's Jubilee Institute. At a recent quarterly Meeting of the Committee of the Aberdeen District Nursing Association, the following report from the President of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses was read:—

"St. Katharine's Royal Hospital,
London, October 6th.

The Council have pleasure in informing you that they have received from the Inspector her report of the Inspection on September 15th of the Nurses' work which is being carried on by your Association, and they forward for your information the general result of her inspection:—(1) Nurses' work—Very well kept up to the standard. (2) Nurses' equipment—Very neat in all particulars. (3) Manner in which the Nursing books are kept—In good order. (4) General remarks—We have pleasure in sending a satisfactory report of the Nurses' work. The progress of the Association has been most rapid. We congratulate you on the acquisition of such a comfortable and central house for the Nurses' Home.

ARTHUR L. B. PEILE, President.

To the Hon. Sec., District Nursing Association
of Aberdeen."

The quarterly report of Miss Armstrong, the Lady Superintendent, was as follows—During the quarter 160 new cases have been notified,

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