

would be useless, and he replied, 'When God has been so good as to give me back my sight, shall I be stupid enough to disobey orders?' Alas! two were stupid enough, and by undoing the bandages and rubbing their eyes with their dirty hands, lost all chance of ever seeing again. It was a great time, and though full of work, we thanked God for giving us the opportunity once again.'

THE JUBILEE YEAR OF THE NURSING BRANCH OF THE RANYARD MISSION.

The Report of the Nursing Branch of the Ranyard Mission for 1917 is that of its Jubilee Year. It is well known that the late Mrs. Ranyard sent out her first mission workers in 1857, and the more intimate her knowledge became of the lives of the poor in London, the more her conviction grew that home nursing must be supplied. In 1868, therefore, she chose out three or four of the Mission Workers, and persuaded the authorities of Guy's Hospital to accept them for two or three months' training, after which they were established in some of the neediest districts. It was soon seen how great a work lay before them, and from that time the Nursing Branch has grown and developed. Now no nurse is accepted for permanent work on the staff unless she has obtained a certificate of three years' consecutive training in a general hospital of not less than 100 beds, or an accredited Infirmary Training School. There is a fine Hostel at 25, Russell Square, W.C., where district training and lectures for candidates are provided; an efficient staff of Superintending Sisters visit with the nurses, directing their work and reporting it at the Centre. Sisters and nurses together number 86.

In common with other organizations of nurses the Ranyard Nurses have had many difficulties and some changes in the staff during the past year. The late Secretary, Miss Zöe Puxley, accepted a post at the Local Government Board in connection with Child Welfare Work; Sister Stenhouse is still away, and is now Matron of the Military Hospital, Isleworth. Three nurses have left during the year for special war service, and the Council records its gratitude to the supernumerary nurses for the help which has made it possible to carry on the existing work.

Owing to financial difficulties two districts were closed where other Associations could cover the ground, and sadly enough nurses were withdrawn from a parish in Westcombe

Park, in Leyton, and in Mitcham, where the people were left without an adequate nursing service. A nurse was also withdrawn from the Westminster General Dispensary. At Finsbury and at Old Ford the number of children attending the minor ailments centres increased so greatly that an extra nurse was set aside to give half her time to each centre. A new centre was opened at Rye Lane, Peckham, where the attendances amounted to 9,566 in seven and a half months. One general district was opened, that of St. Mary's, Peckham.

The testimony of the Ranyard Nurses, in common with that of other Associations, is that better feeding and clothing, resulting from better wages, have mitigated against sickness, and the number of cases in each district have diminished. But filling the gaps and doing extra duty have made many of the nurses very busy, and air raids have added to the strain in all parts of London. Air-raid victims have been amongst the patients, and the demands are ceaseless for helping to maintain the spirit of the people, whether in terrors by air, in anxiety and sorrow, or in the daily weary search for food.

An agreement has now been made in most Boroughs for a payment of 8d. a visit to the Nursing Associations for all cases of measles notified by the Medical Officer of Health, and some Boroughs include ophthalmia neonatorum in the scheme.

The Mission is represented by a Sister on the Board of Delegates of the Hospital Saturday Fund, the Health and Insurance Sectional Committees of the National Union of Women Workers, and by seven representatives on the Central Council for District Nursing in London.

PRACTICAL POINTS.

PASSING AN OPEN SAFETY PIN.

A case is reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* of a baby eight months old who swallowed an open safety pin an inch and a half long and passed it in ninety-six hours—four days. A roentgenogram, taken at the request of the attending physician, showed the pin in the stomach. Thirty-six hours later, the pin being in the same position, an operation was advised, as it was thought the open end could not pass the pylorus. At the end of fifty-two hours, after the operating room had been made ready, a final roentgenogram was taken, and it was seen that the pin had passed from the stomach. By means of the fluoroscope its progress through the intestine was watched until it was finally voided.

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