

Social Work of the Church.

Child Rescue Agencies of Melbourne.

By GEO. B. DUFF.

On this and the following pages there is given an account of the efforts being daily put forth in Melbourne and suburbs by at least the leading child-rescue societies to

SAVE THE CHILDREN

whose home-life is spent on street and in slum, as well as those who are suddenly deprived of parents and guardians.

It must clearly be borne in mind that very many of the children dealt with by these Christly men and women are not primarily outcasts, or "not wanted," but are in numerous instances rendered absolutely dependent upon charity by the death or desertion of their parents.

WHAT IS THE DUTY OF THE CHURCH?

When the Saviour said, "Suffer the children to come unto Me," and thus made clear His attitude to the young, He settled the question for His followers. Would we follow "in His steps"? Then it is essential to our following Him that we remove the difficulties out of the pathway these children have to tread, for, until we do,

THEIR WAY TO CHRIST IS BLOCKED.

Methodism, whatever its failings may be, has this as its glory, that she has thrown wide open her doors to the children. By her system of lay preaching and Home Mission agency, she easily

God. As a result of the consecrated and intelligent toil of such labourers as the above trio, with their many co-adjutors, it is not surprising to learn that in England they are, in some aspects at least of child rescue work, much ahead of us in these colonies.

CHILDREN UNDER TEN YEARS

of age are, by an English Act passed in 1889, prohibited from being employed in begging, singing, playing, or performing for profit, or offering anything for sale in streets and public-houses; and any child so employed must not perform such toil between the hours of ten p.m. and five a.m.

It is nothing less than scandalous that



WESLEYAN CHILDREN'S HOME, CHELTENHAM.



POOR SALLY.

EFFECTS OF POVERTY.

There is also another class, viz., where parents, through sickness or misfortune, or both, are no longer able to maintain their offspring; these are reluctantly and sorrowfully handed over to some institution, and other homes found for them. Perhaps cases such as these form the saddest of all, the separation of parents from children on the sole ground of poverty.

CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE.

Then there are children who are absolutely unmanageable in their homes. Parents have been unwisely lax, or have been deficient of moral stamina, failing to enforce obedience and good habits, with the result that their children defy all authority. To save these they must be removed from the influence of such weakling fathers and mothers, or else they would quickly develop

CRIMINAL TENDENCIES,

and prove a curse to society.

In view of these children of misfortune and of misrule, who wander about our streets, and spend their nights in slums and empty bins, on river bank and in hovel,

and quickly brings the little ones under her influence. We find the benefit of this in our Sunday Schools, for it is an uncommon Methodist school in any large centre where there are not scholars from twenty to thirty years of age. This is, of course,

GOOD FOR OUR OWN CHILDREN,

but we need more than ever also to interest ourselves on behalf of "them that are ready to perish." Only those who have visited the cheap city lodging-houses in winter, or have passed through slum and alley, know of the loveless lives led by the sore-footed and slenderly-clad

CHILDREN OF OUR STREETS.

For them there is no touch of sympathy unless from the extended hand of the Church, and if a Church withholds its helping hand from aiding the children,

THAT HAND SHALL WITHER,

shall perish from want of exercise.

Every intelligent Christian in civilised lands is familiar with the deeds of child rescue that gather round the honoured names of Mueller, Barnardo, and Stephenson, who have proved shepherds indeed to these lost lambs of the flock of

TRAINED CHILD BEGGARS

should be allowed to pester householders and passers-by as they do so vigorously in Melbourne and suburbs. It is abundantly clear that our Truant Act fails at the very place where its operation is most needed.

Moreover, it must be borne in mind that whole families in this city, as in other cities, live in one room, and there perform all the ordinary functions of life, without sense of shame or sin. It is to rescue the children from such certain and unqualified degradation as this that Christ-moved men and women seek to rescue the perishing.

THE CITY AND THE COUNTRY.

Neither should it be forgotten that a very large number of country children are to be found in the institutions described on the succeeding pages. Many a letter, full of urgent entreaty, comes, asking if it be possible to take in, for disciplinary purposes, some wild and lawless boy or girl.

When we remember that in thousands of homes the name of God or Christ is never used except for purposes of profanity, that the sacred name of mother has lost its true propriety and loveliness, and mother and daughter, with father and

son, pass a parasitic existence preying upon others, is it any wonder that the children of such homes have literally to be

DRAGGED OUT

ere they can be rescued? These Societies, doing, as they are, a work that individuals cannot accomplish, have a most urgent claim upon the helpful and sympathetic aid of all who desire to see the kingdom of our God upon the earth.

Much can be done by

LEGISLATIVE METHODS,

but these are only effectual where they express the moral feelings and secure the support of the people.

Christian workers and leaders and preachers, therefore, must now and in future pay more attention to the

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH PEOPLE LIVE

ere much practical relief can come to those who seem to simply and silently slide into sin.

How can we expect morality when there is almost an entire absence of ordinary family life?

These children, aye, and parents too, must be

RESCUED FROM THEIR SURROUNDINGS

before permanent reformatory work can be done. It behoves us to bestir ourselves, and that at once. If we would save our nation from the domination of sin, we must first save the children. With the clamant voices rising up because of the people's needs and sins,

"Can we, whose souls are lited
With wisdom from on high,
Can we to men benighted
The lamp of life deny?"

The cry of the children is in our ears. Can we not hear it? The voice of the down-trodden rises up. Does not its sound strike upon us? The hopeless and despairing wail out their moans of anguish. Do not these piteous voices stir our hearts and move our sympathies? Above all, and beyond all, aye, and in all, there is the Voice of the Son of the Highest, calling us to go and seek and save that which was lost. "Go, work in My vineyard." The Master says "Go!"

Livingstone Home.

If any two words in Victorian Methodist literature should be written in letters of gold, they are "Livingstone Home."

THE ORIGIN OF THE HOME

has formed the basis of many a tale, but as there may still be some who are not familiar with the genesis of our systematic child rescue work, it may briefly be stated that two little boys were found in the street by Mrs. Varcoe. Being in a pitiable condition, they were taken to Wesley Church parsonage, and Mrs. Crisp, whose husband was then Superintendent of Wesley Church Circuit, sallied forth to secure temporary premises. The poor waifs had meanwhile been washed and clothed and fed.

A CHEQUE FOR TEN POUNDS

was received that night, to be used in work of this nature. The receipt of the money was rightly regarded as a loud call to go forward in the name of the Lord; therefore this enterprise was speedily placed upon a proper footing. The temporary premises were at

NORTH CARLTON.

in the same block as our Drummond-street Church. Success attending the efforts of the Committee, a deep and widespread interest was



CHARLIE, A BRIGHT LITTLE LAD.

soon created in the Home, mainly through the exertions of Rev. E. S. Bickford when on tour, and also by the *Spectator* repeatedly urging its claims.

ITS AIM

is the rescue of neglected and outcast children, without reference to class, creed, or colour. After due training these children are placed in Chris-

tian homes in various parts of the country. Some have been sent to the other colonies and to Fiji.

Though under Wesleyan management, the Home is thoroughly undenominational in character. No religious tests are applied, and the fact that a boy or girl is destitute, and in moral peril, is a sufficient recommendation for admission. The training in the Home is religious without being sectarian. Great care is exercised in selecting the homes in the country in which the children are finally placed. These must be Christian in character, but may be of any Protestant denomination, the aim being to secure for these rescued waifs and strays a home where the atmosphere is decidedly Christian, and where the training will be of a similar character.

REMOVAL TO CHELTENHAM.

The house at North Carlton being unsuitable and very expensive, it was decided to secure an abiding and healthy place for our purposes. Hence it was that, after much enquiry "and anxious consideration, a site was obtained near the Cheltenham Railway Station, on the Mordialloc line. Results have shown that this was a very wise selection. To the honour and glory of God be it said, the money was obtained in answer to prayer, and without difficulty. Friends were raised up to help in a very special way, and the children of our families, with the scholars of our Sunday Schools, took up the enterprise with much spirit, and

RAISED UPWARDS OF £1000

towards the erection and equipment of the Home. Many a time it has been remarked that the Livingstone Home was a Children's Home in a two-fold sense. When the building was opened we were able to declare that it was free of debt.

Recently the Home has been enlarged at a cost of £300, and no debt remains. This enlargement was made at the suggestion of our honorary medical men and the Government Inspector, so that provision might be made for isolating sick cases. The enlargement is a great success, and will, in addition to other benefits, enable the Society to take in four or five additional children. There is now accommodation for thirty.

"We have no intention of erecting a barracks.

THAT SYSTEM IS DOOMED.

Ours is a Home. The man and woman in charge are the father and mother, and all the children are brothers and sisters. Our aim is to keep the children in the Home as short a time as possible. Applications are being constantly received for children, and as soon as the Committee of Management is satisfied as to the character of an applicant the request is granted."

After the children leave the Home

A SYSTEM OF VISITATION

is carried out, and the progress of each child is carefully watched.

The management of the Home devolves upon a Committee of representative ladies, but should any emergency arise there is a Committee of gentlemen to whom any matter may be referred

As one of the reports says: The necessity for this work is as great as ever. . . . Of the children born in Melbourne each year, there are

TWO THOUSAND WHOSE FATHERS ARE UNKNOWN.

Each year over a thousand children are arrested by the police in Victoria, while the majority of Victorian prisoners are under thirty



DICK, AS HE WAS FOUND.

years of age. Let anyone attend the sessions of our criminal courts, and the above will be abundantly proved.

"HOW CAN I HELP THE HOME?"

This is a very legitimate question for every Methodist. We have comfortable homes; our children are gathered round us as night closes in; by the good help of God we are able to provide for them; but does our Christianity end here? Are not our children to be taught self-denial for the sake of others? Unless our pious sentiments get crystallised into holy actions their value is gone.

WILL NOT EVERY METHODIST HELP

the Ladies' Committee in their work. Thousands of children are in need of rescue, but they have to be passed by. The Committee dare not go into debt, hence they are forced to refuse applications for help. To anyone who troubles to take an in-



FATHERLESS AND MOTHERLESS.

terest in these matters—and they concern us all if we only knew it—it is clear that a

GREAT EFFORT TO SAVE THE GIRLS

who are growing up must be made. Thousands of girls are practically free several nights a week; they walk our streets, are persuaded to attend the dancing saloon and the theatre, and soon they drift away from righteousness. Many of these are trained in our schools; some are the daughters of Methodists.



AS WE FIND THEM.



AS THEY LEAVE US.

IS IT NOT TIME TO AWAKE

up out of our lethargy, and straightway send on our help to the Ladies' Committee who represent Christ to these giddy and thoughtless girls. "Rev. E. S. Bickford, Belmont Avenue, Kew," is the address for your envelopes and remittances.

CANNOT OUR GIRLS RAISE £500

throughout Victoria and Tasmania for the rescue of girls, by providing them with a Home where they could engage in congenial and womanly occupations, and where they could be trained for filling their stations in life with acceptance to all concerned? The Ladies' Committee are ready when God's people make it possible. If our girls and young ladies would bestir themselves, they could easily, by bazaar and at home and social and concert, as well as by collected money,

CAUSE THE SALVATION

of many of their less favoured sisters. Will they do it? I append the notes on a few cases from the Home's report:—

E. F. was a shivering, cowering, miserable object when he was rescued some few years ago. He is to-day a stout, broad-shouldered youth on a farm to which he was sent, and which he has made his home.



A STUDY IN FACES.

G. H. was a girl, aged sixteen. Her father and mother were dead. Her stepfather was sentenced to life imprisonment and the lash for criminal assault. This poor girl had been sadly neglected, and had before her a life of unutterable shame. She was troublesome at first, but soon became a clean, tidy, and industrious girl.

Willie D. was an orphan, and was left to the tender mercies of a drunken uncle and aunt. They

used to beat him unmercifully, and so starved him that he was glad to pick up food with the fowls. On more than one occasion they nearly murdered him. Once they held him by the throat in a barrel of water, his head being under, and had it not been for the interference of a neighbour he would have been drowned. When rescued he was nearly naked, and was covered with bruises and sores. He is now doing well in a country home.

R. and E. were two little girls whose father was very old, and whose mother was dead. They were found in a house of ill-fame, all covered with dirt and vermin. The head of one girl was bare in patches from neglect. These girls are now in splendid homes, and are doing well.

C. W., one of our older girls, now Mrs. —, is making "a capital wife."

I close this section with the following extract from a letter sent by a foster-parent, who adopted one of our babies:—

"Baby is a darling. We are delighted with her; she is so sweet and loving. We would not be without her now. I really did not expect such a nice little thing. I am sure we shall always love her, and that she will never live to regret having become our adopted daughter. She is the very joy of our lives."

Many a childless home in this land is almost loveless. The moral of the above extract gives the remedy—send to Livingstone Home.

Gordon Institute.

Superintendent, Mr. Chas. D. Barber.

This Christly institute was founded to bless unfortunate and misguided lads, and also to be a memorial of the intense and self-denying love borne by the hero of Khartoum to the boys of the streets.

THE AIM OF THE INSTITUTE

is to beget in the boys' hearts a deep, strong and abiding love for those things that make for righteousness; to teach them to hate sin and break with sinful habit; in short, that they may truly, and in a manly way, follow Him, and serve Him, whom to know is life eternal.

THE METHODS USED

to secure the accomplishment of this aim are manifold. While the lads are yet about town they are encouraged to spend their evenings at the Institute, which is very central, being situated in Bowen-street, near the Working Men's College; it is within a few minutes' walk of the General Post Office.

WEEK-EVENING CLASSES

are held regularly, and at these the programme usually runs on these lines: Monday, music, netting, and fancy work; Tuesday, debating club

meets; Wednesday, elocution, electricity, and gymnastics; Thursday, music and singing; Friday, concert and social night.

As a number of gracious ladies of all ages attend regularly, and lovingly aid these unfortunate lads, they get by very association a

NEW VIEW OF WOMANHOOD,

and just what this means to these young fellows, whose lives are mostly spent in unholy surroundings, only those know who have had to deal with them. The companionship of chaste and graceful women is to these waifs a veritable moral uplift—a view of the angels. A Boys' Committee, with the best results, maintains order and awards punishment for breaches of good conduct at these week-night gatherings.

THE BOYS RECEIVED

may be divided into six classes:—

1. Those committed to our care by the magistrates, and those whose parents transfer their guardianship to us, under the provisions of the "Neglected Children's Act, 1890."

2. Boys who have a good character, but no work to do in town, and whose parents are unable to secure employment for them.

- 3. Boys whose parents are very poor, and cannot maintain, guide, or control them.
- 4. Boys who are incorrigible, and whose parents pay toward their support.
- 5. Orphans in the care of friends, who from various causes cannot longer maintain them.
- 6. Boys in country districts and inland towns who have acquired vicious habits, and want to be sent away from their companions.

Quite a large number are lads whose PARENTS HAVE FAILED

to keep the children under control when from three to eight years old, and who thus grow up to despise parental and all other authority.

The lads who habitually play truant quickly gravitate into the ranks of the criminal classes, and for these boys, while still young, there should be



GORDON INSTITUTE, BOWEN STREET, MELBOURNE.

DAY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

such as have been introduced into Aberdeen, with the result that immediately there was a reduction of nearly 50 per cent. in the local crime. Boys should be sent to these schools for one, two, or three months, for the one thing they stand in need of is disciplinary training.

Mr. Barber also holds that there is a need for a

"WORKING BOYS' HOME"

in Melbourne, like those in London, for boys who earn 6s. or 8s. per week. There are many boys lodging in restaurants that are open to people of small means, and there they cannot help associating with bad characters. He would gladly provide this, if he had more room.

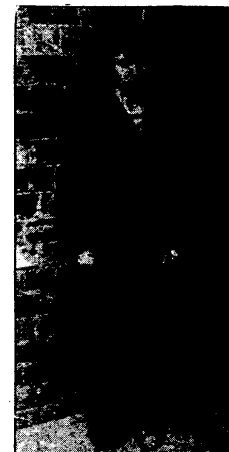
The "Try Excelsior News," published by the Institute, is a fine means of communication between headquarters and those in the widely-separated farm Homes of the colony.



"SLIM TOM."



"NUGGET."



"FRINGY."

THE RAW MATERIAL AS WE FOUND IT.

HEALTHY HOMES IN THE COUNTRY

have been found for between 200 and 300 lads. When a farmer makes application to Mr. Barber for a lad he must comply with the conditions under which these boys are sent out—conditions laid down under the operation of the Child Protection Act. They are given with some fulness

PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

must be regularly made according to written agreement. A quarterly account is made out against the employer, and he (after deducting amounts actually paid for clothing, specified pocket-money, etc.) sends the balance to the Institute, whereupon the money is banked to the

here, but only so as to prevent their having to be repeated elsewhere. The lad must, first of all, be

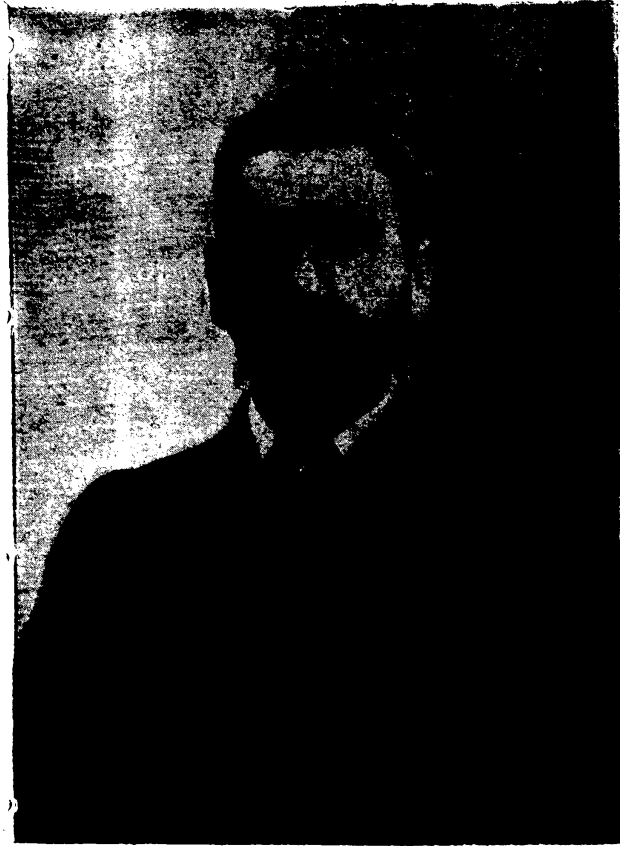
PROPERLY FED AND HOUSED,

which is generally a new experience to him; further, he must be taken regularly to the em-

credit of the lad, and he is at once fully informed of the transaction.

EVERY APPLICANT FOR A LAD

must be certified to as being a suitable person to whom one of these lads may with confidence be sent. When a receipt is sent to the lad, as re-



MR. CHARLES BARBER, MANAGER OF GORDON INSTITUTE.

ferred to in the preceding paragraph, he gets the following GOOD ADVICE:

"Try to save as much as you can, so that you may have plenty when you are old enough to start a business, and provide for times of sickness and old age."

Dealing with what are called UNCONTROLLABLE BOYS

is made a special feature at the Gordon Institute. Under the firm but kind discipline of Mr.

Barber and his co-adjutors, these boys come to realise that laws are for their good, and that their own welfare is bound up in being God-fearing, law-abiding, industrious members of the community.

During the past ten years the Gordon Institute has found food, clothing, country homes and

employment for 1613 different boys (exclusive of those who were returned to their parents), who were neglected in various ways—some orphans, others commencing a criminal career, some were found in gaols, police courts, or had run away from guardians.

ALL WERE NEEDING HELP,

and all who were willing to obey received the needed assistance. It is almost impossible to rescue the hardened in crime; there are successes, it is true, but what chance is there with them as compared with the preventive work such as is done by this Institute?

THE POWER OF THE PENNY.

Look at this one golden fact: For the year ending June 30th, 1898, there was paid into the bank to the individual credit of the Gordon Institute lads £430 18s. 7d., after paying £338 5s. 2d. to relatives and friends. Probably almost every one of these lads would have been a pest to society but for the interposition of this Christian institution.

GIVE EVERY BOY A CHANCE.

It is his birthright, but he will never have it till the Christian conscience is roused and Christian men realise their personal responsibility for the conditions under which much of the colony's child life is lived.

THREE ILLUSTRATIVE CASES

only are given here, but hundreds could be supplied:—

A Town Case.—A boy, aged seven years, deserted by parents; picked up and adopted by a kind-hearted woman, who died when he was ten years old. He was thus a second time homeless, and came into our hands. He is now twenty years old, honest, respectable, with £24 in the bank.

A BOY SOLD FOR HALF-A-CROWN.

Another case.—Boy at Heidelberg, with drunken parents, who sold him for 2s. 6d. to a kind-hearted farmer's wife. This woman died when he was twelve years old, but sent the lad to the Gordon Institute a few weeks before her death. He was then sent into the country, and has been five and a-half years in one place. The

woman he works for writes to say: "Don't take him away; he is like my own flesh and blood."

SAD EFFECTS OF TOBACCO.

A Country Case.—A boy from a tobacco farm had been allowed to smoke and chew as much as he liked, and was becoming insane. He gave an immense amount of trouble, but, after long perseverance, he gradually improved, but will never be a bright, intelligent man.



A TYPICAL GROUP.

(The figure in girls' attire is a lad, who was thus dressed to prevent his escaping.)

Thus our work is mingled with light and shadow, but we strive, and still will strive, that we may lead thousands more of the wayward or unfortunate lads through the perilous paths of youth out into the broad paths of Christian manliness.

HOW THE INSTITUTE IS SUPPORTED.

By voluntary contributions we receive our sustenance, and if the purse-strings of the wealthy could only be unloosed on behalf of this Institute, there are thousands more whom we could help upwards and onwards along that path that leads unto the throne of God.

THE POWER OF PRAYER.

"If a man sets himself to do a piece of God's work, God must help it." The money came, and comes still. The site on which the buildings are erected was the gift of a lady—in answer to prayer. The buildings cost £4000—God's gift in answer to many prayers. The latest addition to the equipment is a magnificent American organ—it came in answer to prayer. The annual expenditure is over £400—the income is regular

IN ANSWER TO PRAYER.

Thus the money came; and an enterprise which began about twelve years ago with three boys is now splendidly equipped, and passed 512 boys through its books last year.

THE CITY NEWSBOYS' TRY SOCIETY,

in the same period, dealt with twenty-one boys, and the Girls' Try Society records the number of girls who attended during the year at sixty-seven. The whole of the work is carried on by means of voluntarily subscribed funds, and unaided by Government subsidy.

THE BUILDINGS.

The first is a great hall, seventy-five feet by forty feet, with a platform at one end, and behind the platform a gymnasium, which can be shut off from the hall and made a class-room, and with two or three small rooms at the other end. The second building is more recent. On the ground floor it has a room for instruction in carpentry and boot-repairing, a printing-room, and a lavatory. Upstairs there are three good classrooms. And connected with this building is the swimming-bath.

A friend who visited the Home says:—"The boys attending the hall pay 6d. per month for their privilege of membership, and for this sum they are enabled to attend the many classes which are held at the hall on each evening of the week. There are classes for gymnastic training, carpentering, boot-repairing, printing, writing, shorthand, book-keeping, and singing. Our illustrations show the boys busy in each of the classes. Boys whose education is lacking are thus given every opportunity of obtaining an education which should fit them for any work of life they may choose. Prizes are given by the teachers for the encouragement of the boys, and many of them who have been through the classes have entered the Working Men's College.

IN THE BOOT-REPAIRING AND CARPENTERING CLASSES

boys are taught to be useful, and many of the boys who are sent into the country to work are provided with boots which have been repaired at the class. In The Busy Bee Class many useful articles are turned out of cast-away material, and netting, hammock-making, and macrame work are also taught. At the printing-office the reports and other printing work in connection with the Society's operations are turned out. In connection with the Society there is also

A SAVINGS BANK,

in which there are 211 accounts, with deposits totalling £103 3s. 1d.; a Band of Hope and a

Try Excelsior Classes.

Mr. W. M. Forster, Leader and Manager.

The views illustrating this record of successful efforts on behalf of lads and girls make it easy for the readers of these lines to see how intensely practical a love-service is that rendered by Mr. W. M. Forster and his many co-adjutors. If their praise is not in all the Churches, we may be quite sure their work is recognised "in the city without a Church."

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

finds full and free outlet with Mr. Forster. "Give me a chance with them while they are young," says he, "and by God's good help they will be manly men yet."

THE ORIGIN OF THE TRY SOCIETIES.

Mr. Forster had been for long impressed with the conviction that something should be done for the boys in the streets. Their homes are close and narrow; they cannot be expected to spend their evenings there. Yet the streets are the school of larrikinism and crime. What could be done? He was thinking of this problem one evening as he strolled near the Melbourne Hospital, when he saw a boy going home from his work in a very dirty condition. He went up to him and said: "Now, my lad, where do you work?"

"You SHUT UP, AND MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS."

Mr. Forster tried again. "Come now, I don't see why we shouldn't talk. Suppose I asked you to come every evening after your work to a good room where you could play at dominoes and look at pictures, and have gymnastics, and—" "Look here, I work at the jam factory." "All right. Well, what do you do in the evenings?" "Oh, I get out in the street with some other

chaps." "Is there a good deal of cursing and swearing?" "Oh, stacks of that, sir."

There was the idea then in the bud, and Mr. Forster first tried to bring it to fruit in his own house. He began with three boys, and the number grew till it was impossible to go on longer there. Then the means came for extending the work. Mr. Forster is a convinced believer in



OUR BOOTMAKING CLASS.



TRY SOCIETIES' HALLS, HAWKSURN.

Children's Church, in which Sunday services for the young are conducted.

Apart from the educational facilities afforded, the Try Society's hall forms a useful retreat, where boys, in the spare evenings, can obtain recreation of a healthy character, which keeps them from the streets. All kinds of games are provided, and a splendid library is at the disposal of the boys. A swimming-class is another useful feature of the institution.

Much attention has been given by the management to that branch of the work which provides for the future of lads who are

UNABLE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT.

It is recognised that the future welfare of many town boys is best conserved by introducing them to the free and healthy life of the country, away from the contamination of the undesirable companions and surroundings that are frequently met with in city life. During the year 116 lads and three girls were sent away to country situations, where, in nearly every case, they are giving satisfaction to those under whose care they have been placed, while in all cases great care is taken that their circumstances are of a happy and comfortable nature."

THE CITY NEWSBOYS' SOCIETY.

In dealing with the little lads, often bare-footed and bare-headed, who gain their livelihood in our city streets selling newspapers, the Society have a more difficult task. It is pointed out that while the majority of the boys dealt with at Hawksburn are those who are employed throughout the day in factories or workshops, the newsboy, under ordinary circumstances, lives during the day in the streets. His hours of labour commence with the issue of the evening papers, and, for the greater part of the day, if uncared for, he would resort to the alleys and by-ways.

Then there is the army of waifs, too often the children of

DRUNKEN AND DISSOLUTE PARENTS.

who gain a precarious livelihood by selling matches and other trifling commodities. All these are reached by the City Newsboys' Try Society.

The central rooms, where shelter, refreshment, and recreation are afforded, are in 192 Little Collins-street. In these rooms the little waifs can amuse themselves with various games, can enjoy the privileges of a good library, or attend day school.

There are also, in connection with this Society, as at Hawksburn, classes for drill and gymnastic exercises, boot-repairing, and other useful work. On a cold, wet day, the little

SCANTILY-CLAD NEWSBOY,

who wears the Society's badge, knows where he can obtain food, rest, and shelter at a nominal charge, if he can pay it, and for nothing if he has not the penny asked for, while hot baths are fitted up for his use.

Mention must be made of the Sunday afternoon class at the hall, which has been the means of a great deal of good work. To quote from the

report:—"Many of the boys are very ignorant regarding anything about the Bible. One boy's idea of heaven was that it resembled the inside of Menzies' Hotel, which he had once seen."

During a recent period of eight months, eighteen of these lads were dealt with, of whom nine were sent to country situations, five boarded out at country homes,

two absconded, one was returned to his mother 200 miles from Melbourne, and one remained in the Home. Besides these, three others were sent direct to country situations, making a total of twenty-one.

Kindly mention is frequently made by the lads as to the sympathy shown to them again and again by the Rev. Chas. Tregear.



EVENING CLASSES AT THE TRY SOCIETIES' HALL, HAWKSURN



MEMBERS OF OUR NEWSBOYS' CLUB

THE GIRLS' TRY SOCIETY.

The Girls' Try Society meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, at the Presbyterian school-room, Motherwell-street, Hawksburn. Here there are classes for singing, writing, elocution, and calisthenics, and there is an excellent library. In this society, also, situations are found in the country for girls needing them. Miss Goldstein, the leader; Miss Finley, the secretary; and Messrs. Wisewould, Griffin and Mitchell are the committee.

A regular system of visiting the girls has been carried out, and has been found of great assistance in furthering the objects of the Society, as the leader by this means becomes acquainted with the girls and their parents in their own homes. Situations have been found in both town and country for those of our members who required them. This branch of the work is regarded as very important, and special attention has therefore been given to it.

During the year Dr. Lillian Alexander kindly consented to act as honorary physician to the Society, and has gratuitously attended those of the members who were not in a position to pay for medical treatment.

Such is the work which is being carried on in three directions, by Mr. W. M. Forster, assisted by his son, Mr. W. C. D. Forster, and a committee of management.



NIGHT-SCHOOL FOR THE NEWSBOYS.

Melb. Orphan Asylum.

Acting Superintendent, Mr. A. J. Spear.

THE OBJECTS OF THE ASYLUM

are to provide for

First, and Before All.—Destitute Children deprived by death of both parents. No such orphan has ever been refused admission into the Asylum from any part of the colony of Victoria.

Secondly.—Fatherless Children of destitute widows who have more than two young children dependent on each of them. In such cases the widow must provide by her own labour and friendly local help for at least two children. Any over that number may be considered orphans eligible for admission as far as the means of the Orphanage will permit.

Such are the opening words of an appeal made recently to the Victorian public, an appeal which closes with words full of pathos. Here they are:—

"We beg you to remember that 439 orphan children are appealing to you for the necessities of life; and we ask you in their name to send something, however small the amount may be."



ORPHANS AT PLAY.

WHERE THE ORPHANS COME FROM.

These orphans are received from all parts of the colony of Victoria (except where district orphanages are established, viz., Ballarat and Geelong) if they are deprived by death of both parents, and are destitute. They are maintained until they are fourteen years old, and then provided with situations until they are seventeen, remaining under the guardianship of the Committee during their time of service. One-half of their wages is collected for them by the Committee, and kept in the Savings Bank until their indentures to employers are fulfilled, and is then given, with accumulated interest, to the young people.

THE LAST ANNUAL REPORT

states that during the year 117 destitute orphan children have been admitted. The daily average number supported has been 425. The number at present maintained is 424, and there are 57 apprentices serving under indentures from the Orphanage, making a total of 481 under the care of the Committee. Since the establishment of the institution, 3421 children have been received and provided for. The average cost of maintenance (including cost of trade instruction) per child for the year has been £15 12s. 1d., or 6s. per week per child. The average cost for the previous year was £15 9s. 6d. The very slight increase is accounted for by the higher price of provisions.

TRADE INSTRUCTION.

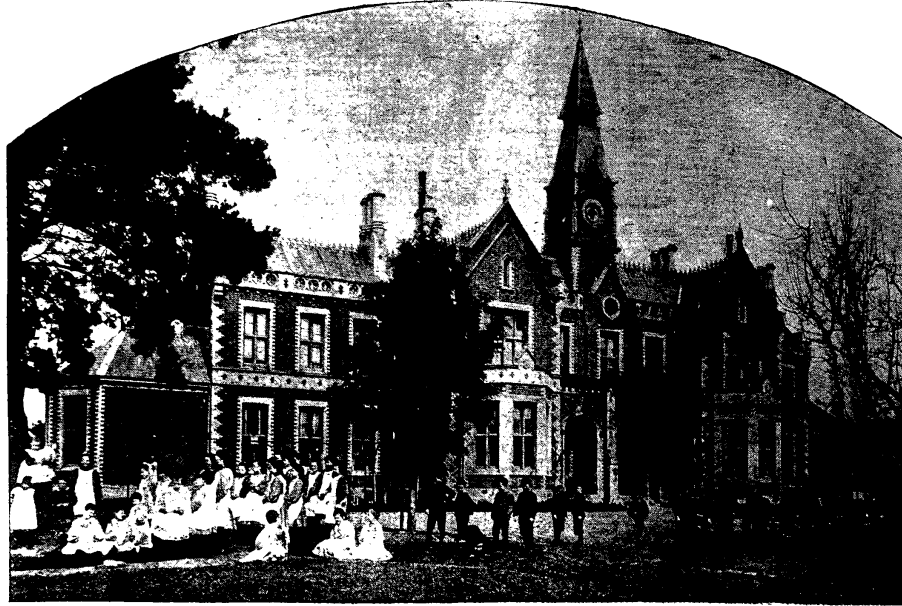
The trade instruction and industrial training have included—bread-making, boot-making,

tailoring, dairy-farm and garden work for the elder boys, and domestic work and plain sewing for the elder girls. These phases of this splendidly practical and common-sense charity are fully depicted in the accompanying illustrations.

Society which, in 1849, began to give shelter to orphans and destitute old people, and the children were housed in a small building in Bourke-street, standing on Government land. This became unsuitable, and the Government granted to

will eventually become the property of the Asylum. Some of the leases fall in in 1909, and others at various subsequent dates.

In April, 1878, the children were removed into the fine building at Middle Brighton, the front-



MELBOURNE ORPHAN ASYLUM, MAIN BUILDING.

To eat the bread of idleness is quite impossible for any of the orphans, male or female, placed under the charge of this Committee.

BREAD CAST UPON THE WATERS.

Some years ago the younger members of a family of orphans at Rushworth, left without means, were supported by the Orphan Asylum until they were able to earn a living for themselves. The family recently came into possession of a sum of money, and unanimously agreed to send the whole amount to the Orphanage, although the elder members had received no help from the institution.

There are many scores of men and women in this and other colonies who have equally

GOOD REASON TO REMEMBER

those who helped them in the days of their adversity. Perhaps there are some among those who will read these lines. If this be the case, would it not be wise, as well as just, for such to consider how much they owe unto this or similar institutions?

the committee an area of ten acres of ground on Emerald Hill.

In 1854 the children—thirty-three in number—were in bad health, and they were removed on to a piece of Government land at Kew, where tents were erected for them, and Mrs. Jas. Simpson very kindly took charge.

On September 6th, 1855, the foundation-stone of the

NEW ASYLUM AT EMERALD HILL

was laid by the Governor (Sir Charles Hotham), and a year later the children were removed from Kew, and were housed in the new asylum, which was afterwards extended at a cost of £7000, the Government contributing £4000, and £3000 being raised by the holding of a bazaar.

In 1877 it was found that the occupation of so large an area in the centre of South Melbourne was an inconvenience, and the town council agreed to exchange for the building then erected, and a small portion of the land in the centre of the ten acres, a sufficient sum to erect new build-

age of which is shown in our illustrations. In order to introduce more of the family element into the lives of the children, the present institution was designed on the cottage principle in preference to the old barrack system, although the original design of adding to the cottages has not been carried out. The main building, as may be seen, is a very handsome structure, with a frontage design which is pleasing to the eye and substantial at the same time. On either side are

TWO HANDSOME COTTAGES,

and other separate buildings are used as a hospital and workshops; while, in accordance with an arrangement with the Government, a State school is erected.

The ground surrounding the institution covers an area of seventeen acres, part of which is laid out in ornamental gardens and borders, the remainder being under cultivation. The situation has been wisely chosen. The surrounding open country, and the sea beach within easy distance,



TAILORING ROOM, MELBOURNE ORPHAN ASYLUM.



IN THE BAKEHOUSE, MELBOURNE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

It is hoped that the reprinting of the really generous act of those Rushworth lads will lead to many a deed of requital for the love-acts of the past. "Son, remember."

From a sketch supplied me by Mr. Spear the following particulars are culled:—

The history of the Melbourne Orphan Asylum is interesting. It was the St. James' Dorcas

ings at Brighton. The Legislature then passed an Act securing to the Orphan Asylum the remainder of the South Melbourne land, consisting of frontages to six principal streets, as an endowment for its future maintenance. The South Melbourne Town Hall now stands on the land taken over by the council, and the frontages to the streets round about the municipal buildings

render the site specially suitable, and it is considered that the climate is of such a character that will produce physically strong men and women.

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT.

It has been stated that the institution is arranged on the cottage principle. In the cottage, known as the nursery cottage, live the chil-

dren of tender years, while in the other cottage the younger of the girls are housed. The top floor of the main building is divided into two separate dormitories for elder girls. The housework is all done by the elder children, under the supervision of the housemother and wardsmen. That this work is thoroughly carried out is one of the first features that strike the visitor, for the floors and staircases are spotlessly clean and white.

EDUCATION OF HEAD AND HAND.

Up to the age of twelve years the children are kept at the school during full time. From that age to thirteen they devote half their time to

their homes. The girls go out as general helps and servants, and the boys to various trades, and the demand for boys and girls from the asylum is always greater than the available supply. The apprentices remain under the guardianship of the management until they arrive at the age of eighteen years, and during the time they are indentured portions of their wages are received and banked for them. Then numbers of children are "boarded out," under the care of local ladies' committees, ministers of religion, and others appointed by the general committee.

Thus it will be seen that anyone who sends a remittance to the Melbourne Orphan Asylum,

boys live there at a time. The land has been drained (bush drains), fenced, one tank, one dam; the land is under cultivation with potatoes, vegetables, oats, and fruit trees, all of which improvements have been done mainly by the boys themselves; there are also pigs and fowls on the farm. About thirty boys have been at the farm before being sent to situations in the country, not one of whom has absconded.

Here is an extract from the report of the Inspector and Secretary of Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools respecting this beneficent institution:—

"Mr. Groom recognises that these misguided or unfortunate boys have a special claim on him in their powerlessness to right themselves, and while each boy may be classed from certain external resemblances with a hundred other lads, yet he is still distinct and individual, and has to be studied and treated accordingly. It is not too much to say that everything is done for the boys by Mr. and Mrs. Groom that wise treatment and honest and good family life can accomplish. . . . The results obtained by Mr. Groom are a striking proof of the success of the system when the boys are in suitable hands. The entire absence of restraints, such as secure buildings, walls, fences, locks or bars, and the reliance upon moral influence and wholesome conditions of family life, are the features of the work which distinguish the private reformatory system from that which prevailed in the past."

Each system must be judged by its own results, and in this matter Mr. Groom's work will stand any test that may be applied to it.

The Home is mainly supported by the payments received from the Government for the maintenance and reformatory training of boys dealt with by the bench. For each of these 10s. per week is paid, but the large number (twenty-two) for whom nothing whatever is received makes it absolutely necessary to continue asking for contributions to pay for the actual food consumed. We can assure our readers that the greatest care is taken to economise in every direction, and that their money will be judiciously spent.

Touchees of beauty may be seen on every hand, appealing to the better side of the boys' natures, and that successfully.

REFRACATORY LADS: HOW MR. GROOM DEALS WITH THEM.

Many a parent has assured Mr. Groom that he has "thrashed the boy till he could do no more," or "chained him up to the leg of the table," with many other ingenious forms of punishment, and yet the boy is "no better." In many cases a



ON THE FARM, MELBOURNE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

school work and the other half to the industrial training which fits them for the world. At fourteen years of age they are apprenticed under strict regulation to employers, who take them to

Brighton, can do so with the knowledge that his money is not only being put to a good use, but to the best possible use, for is it not helping the widow and the orphan?

Excelsior Home at Brighton.

Conducted by Mr. W. Groom.

One is in a difficulty when writing of this splendid Home for boys, as Mr. Groom does not care for publicity. He courts the visits of any persons interested in Child Rescue, but prefers to withhold himself from public view. He has, however, through Mr. Edward A'Beckett, sent information from which the following particulars are gleaned:—

"Excelsior" Home, which is, indeed,

A REAL HOME.

was founded in 1886 "for the admission of homeless or neglected boys, and for older youths who, desiring to live upright and industrious lives, and to break off from former associations, are from various causes without friends, home, or means."

THE OBJECT OF THE HOME

is to keep the lads until they are fitted to take suitable situations (generally in the country).

Some 300 boys have been in the Home since its foundation, December, 1886. Twenty-two new boys, excluding Government ones, have been inmates during the year. Of these seven were homeless, five were beyond control, three neglected, four from the police courts, and three former inmates returned. Of the homeless boys, four were ultimately taken care of by friends; three of those beyond control were after some time sent back to their parents; and with the rest of the boys the usual course of treatment was carried out, of getting situations, generally in the country, so soon as each boy was likely to be satisfactory to his employer. Frequently a boy is wanted for a good situation, and although there may be twenty boys or more in the Home or the Farm, not one will be at the time suitable. Many of the boys who go out working by the day, and who give the greatest satisfaction, would be useless and unreliable if permanently employed removed from the control of the Home. The boys' entire earnings are always their own, and nearly all the boys have money in the Savings Bank. In addition to these regular inmates, twenty-three boys or youths have stayed a day or two and longer before Mr. Groom was able to send them to work in the country. Many of them he has had to provide with clothing,

THE BOYS' FARM.

Mr. Groom long wanted to start a boys' farm, in order that those whom he considered suitable for a country life should have some probation in a place where they would gain some experience of farming, have greater freedom than in a town, and still be under his supervision. Owing to the liberality of Mr. F. Illingworth, ten acres of land at Black Flat, Mulgrave, were given to him for



DRESSMAKING, IN GIRLS' SECTION, MELBOURNE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

this purpose nearly ten years ago, but it was only in 1895 that he was able to make a very small beginning in tents. There has been erected a comfortable wooden cottage, and as a rule only a few

period of gaol has been added without any benefit. What a change the foolish or wicked lad, perhaps both, must experience when he comes under the true fatherly treatment of Mr. Groom.

SIDNEY M. WATSON,

Barrister and Solicitor, 60 Queen Street, Melbourne, Has Trust Moneys to Lend. SMALL OR LARGE SUMS.

At the Home

LOCKS AND BOLTS ARE UNKNOWN, but, instead, each lad has a very small but clean and cheerful bedroom for his own; the meals are comfortable; good baths, a great amount of liberty, not enough boys to make him feel in an institution, but enough to prevent it being dull, so that the new-comer thinks he may as well give it a trial, as he can easily at any time run away. He, however, soon learns that implicit obedience is necessary, that he must also do some kind of

OUR OBJECT.

The lads seldom stop long enough to become really skilled in any particular work, the main object being to improve their moral character and to prepare them to start life away from the Home as upright, hard-working lads, wherever they go or whatever they do, and this end has been attained in nearly all cases. The daily religious training consists in short daily morning prayers at breakfast, consisting of a few verses of Scripture.



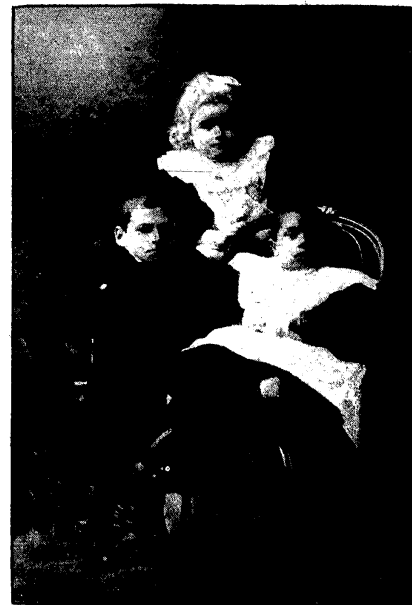
NIGHT NURSEY, MELBOURNE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

work and go to school (when necessary); by this time he has formed acquaintance with the other boys, finds the Home is "not half a bad place," puts off his secret intention to "clear" from day to day, and generally ends in appreciating the Home life thoroughly; and gradually, through the constant example of what he sees, becomes an honest, upright, straightforward lad.

commented upon, and followed by an extempore prayer suitable to the ever-changing conditions of the boys.

WHERE TO SEND HELP.

When our readers are meditating what to do with their alms, it will help to smooth the path of some waif if they send along some of their gifts to Mr. W. Groom, Brighton.



PORTRAITS OF ORPHANS.

ters, and in every instance favourable comments were made on the homes, though many of the children were described as "troublesome."

HOME REPORT.

The Home Committee, consisting of five members, meet every Thursday morning at 10.30, first at Miss Stewart's office in Russell-street, and then afterwards at "Kildonan," 149 Flemington-road, North Melbourne, when all business relative to the management of the Home is transacted.

From December 31st, 1897, to December 31st, 1898, 94 children (34 admits and 60 re-admits) have entered the Home, and, with the exception of 14, have all left for foster-homes.

Home visitors are appointed each month at the General Meeting to visit the Home and report thereon.

LADY TEACHERS

attend five mornings in the week to give lessons to the children; one lady comes one afternoon in the week to teach sewing, and another also comes every Sunday afternoon to give religious instruction.

The management of the Home continues to be conducted by Miss Black in an efficient manner, and her interest and help in the work amongst the children are of great assistance to Miss Stewart. The Committee desire to express their

Among the Presbyterians.

PRESBYTERIAN AND SCOTS' CHURCH NEGLECTED CHILDREN'S SOCIETY.

Deaconess in Charge, Miss Stewart, next Scots' Church.

Says a friend:— "From the report of the Neglected Children's Aid Society it will be seen that since its inception seventeen years ago that admirable institution has taken charge of no less than 1448 children, of whom 391 are still under its control. But these figures give only an imperfect indication of the immense blessing this agency has been to the community as a whole, in recruiting for the ranks of useful and profitable citizenship a multitude of young waifs, who would almost certainly have grown up to swell the ranks of

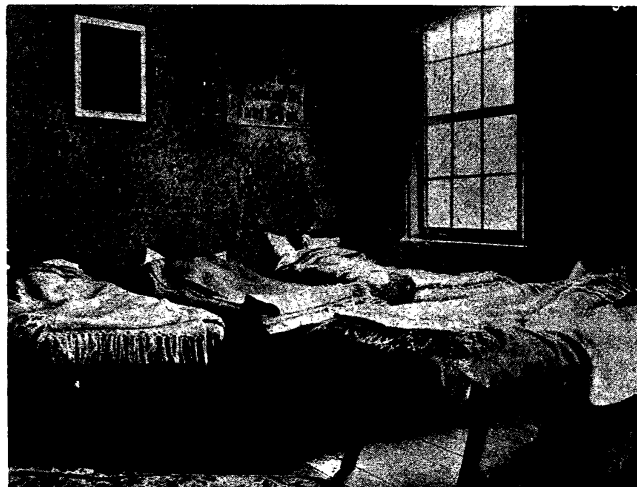
CRIMINALITY AND VICE.

The income of the Society for the year was £408 2s. 6d., and its expenditure £454 3s. 10d. During the year the Committee were able to reduce the debt on the Home by £250, but it is still burdened with a mortgage of £1250. To Deaconess Maggie Stewart, its agent, the work of the Society owes much of its success; and the Home Committee take special note of the effective and kindly manner in which Miss Black discharges her duties as matron of the Home."

During the year, 148 foster-homes have been obtained for children, and to the kind people

who have so generously helped grateful thanks are given.

Lists of the children have been sent to the ministers of the different districts in which they are placed. We received reports from 83 minis-



DORMITORY, PRESBYTERIAN HOME.

Use **BALFE'S BLACK** and Colours for **STRAW HATS.**

Dries in ten minutes, makes the hat no heavier, is put on with a clean, cheap brush. Sold by Painters, Ironmongers, Storekeepers, &c. Ask for Balfes, and beware of imitations. Works: BRUNSWICK, VICTORIA.

appreciation of the pleasant, thorough, and kindly manner in which she performs her duties as matron.

The children have been troubled with both

MEASLES AND WHOOPING-COUGH

this year, but none of them were seriously ill. When medical attention has been needed it has been kindly given by Drs. Springthorpe, Black, Hughes, Webster, and Cox.



MILKING TIME, MELBOURNE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

This work, which is the official child rescue agency of the Presbyterian Church, is specially attached to Scots' Church, Collins-street, but it receives support from a much wider circle than those who comprise the congregation of the most opulent body of worshippers in Victorian Presbyterianism.

Although this work is being ably carried on and most

SYMPATHETICALLY ADMINISTERED
by Deaconess Stewart and her co-adjutors, still it is patent to all that the great Presbyterian Churches of the metropolis have not yet thoroughly grasped this work. In the future there will doubtless be a much more elaborate system of child rescue, with several deaconesses at work.

PRESBYTERIANISM NEEDS ROUSING
to the imminent need of getting better grip of the submerged, and when it is so aroused there

will outflow a steady stream of golden coin and loving deed and gentle word on behalf of the poor bairns of street and alley who have not yet been given an opportunity to emerge from their noisome surroundings.

The block used to illustrate the work of our Presbyterian brethren has been kindly placed at our disposal by Messrs. Rae Bros., Elizabeth-street, Melbourne.

studies; has upwards of £7 in Government Savings Bank.

Case C.—Deserted, age 11. Parents described as of the worst; boy had been stealing long time; parents' whereabouts unknown. This boy was extremely troublesome, of dirty habits, and corrupt mind. Began to improve after three months; has progressed ever since; now a useful and trustworthy boy; twelve months in service. Just taken in time.

Case D.—Uncontrollable. Parents very respectable. Numerous family, all well conducted but this one, aged 11; would not go to school. Off with older boys, slept in empty houses; absconded from us twice; preferred the spade to the pen; improved after five months; a great



WAIFS SUCH AS ARE ADMITTED TO THE HOME

chum; knew where to find all the birds' nests. Returned to parents after twelve months, who gratefully report: "Boy behaving well, and attending school regularly."

Three employers report this month three other cases, as follows:—"You will be glad to know that ——— so far is a credit to his Home at Burwood. He works well, seems very happy, and attends Church and Sunday School regularly. £5 15s. to credit." Another, in forwarding wages for six months, says: "My garden is looking very nice; ——— keeps it beautifully." "I have pleasure in stating that the lad ——— is giving every satisfaction, and I believe he likes his new home."

The Superintendent, whose address is Boundary-road, Burwood, will always be glad to welcome visitors.

Burwood Boys' Home.

This Home for the rescue and training of boys is situated at Burwood, a fine, healthy country place lying a few miles out of the metropolis. No really destitute boy has yet been turned away from its doors: at the same time, monetary assistance is expected from those parents or guardians who can afford to pay, but yet are unable to keep their lad under proper control. Every lad is trained to be of use in garden or on farm, so that he may become a wage-earner, and thus save his self-respect. Indeed, so apt have the lads proved themselves that the management look forward to the Home being made self-supporting. By orchard and nursery and farm they hope to pay their way. Some twenty lads are

eight months in situation, giving every satisfaction.

Case B.—Neglected, age 14. Father deserted; mother lapsed through intemperance; boy sold papers, evaded truant officers; lived with indifferent relatives; could spell a few words, unable to sign own name; had received no religious teaching or training of any kind; dirty and sullen. After twelve months' training, carefully placed. Has been two years in service, bearing an excellent character. Keeps up evening



BURWOOD HOME.

usually in residence, while the boys who have passed through the Home have in almost every case proved satisfactory. Failures sometimes happen, but frequently those who do not suit in one place do capitally in another.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT:

Case A.—Orphaned, age 13. Parents were highly respectable; died within a few months of each other; boy left in care of relatives, who shamefully misapplied means at disposal, then cast him adrift; gravitated to Mr. Forster's Try Society, thence to our care. Dirty and in rags; clothes held together by bits of wire. Has been



SMART LADS.

Dentistry.
MR. E. FITZGERALD.
(Twelve years Head Assistant and Manager of the late Mr. J. Doubleday,
SURGEON DENTIST.
179 LYON STREET (West side), CARLTON (8! Doors South from Grattan Street.

ADVERTISING IS NOT NECESSARY!

Neither are the telegraph, the telephone, or the express train but they are mighty convenient when you want to get there quick.

See the Manager,

Spectator Co.

And Get Quotations.

Anglican Rescue Society.

This Home has been established about four and a-half years. For a long time the Anglican body, as such, did not take up the work of child rescue, excepting by the instrumentality of local Dorcas or benevolent societies.

Of late years, however,

A CHANGE HAS COME OVER THE SCENE.

and now at Brighton they have a fine and suitable place for the children rescued by their most estimable deaconesses and Church Army workers.

THE AVERAGE NUMBER

of children in the Home is about thirty. Being dependent entirely for support from the alms of their fellow-Churchmen, or the charitably disposed, the greatest care is exercised to make the best use of whatever is placed at their disposal.

WHY SHOULD NOT THE ANGLICAN SCHOOLS make more effort for their child rescue work? If they did, it would bring upon them the blessing of Him whose they are, and whom they desire more effectively to serve.

The children are received from 7.30 a.m. till 6.30 p.m., at a charge of 4d. per day for one, and 3d. each if more than one of the same family. They are admitted from infants of a few weeks old till six years of age, when they go to school.

THE ONLY RESTRICTION

is that they must not be suffering from any infectious disease. Each mother, when first taking her child, must get a written order from a member of Committee, or from a clergyman, or from a member of the local Ladies' Benevolent Society, recommending her to the matron.

Formerly the poor mother had either to lock up her offspring in the home, or, if old enough,



WHEN RESCUED.

When a child is rescued by one of these agents, it is taken to the Brighton Home, where it is kept a much longer time than is usual with some other Societies.

The schools can be worked for more than most people give them credit; sometimes they are used for unwise purposes, but herein is a way of helpfulness, blessing others, and developing a Christ-love for the perishing.



BOOT AND SHOE MAKING, MELBOURNE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

TURN THEM ON TO THE STREET

for the day, to beg or otherwise get a living, "till mother comes home." Now she is sure of their being well looked after—better, indeed, than many of the mothers themselves could do.

The children are taken care of by the matron alone, unless there are several young infants, when, of course, she requires assistance.

A house committee, appointed from the Committee monthly, visit the Creche regularly weekly, and see that everything is going on properly. The Creche is

OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO VISITORS

(Monday and Tuesday are the days there are usually most children), who will always find the children bright and happy looking.

BRUNSWICK CRECHE.

RULES OF ADMISSION.

1. Children can be received from any age up to seven years; if attending school, can come to Creche for meals.
2. Hours of admission, from 7.30 a.m. till 6.30 p.m.
3. Each child will be bathed, hair attended to, and Creche clothes put on for the day, as soon as possible after arriving; and will be dressed in its own clothes before leaving for the night.
4. The fees are: For one child, 3d.; for two of the same family, 4d.; three of same family, 6d.; to be paid either when left or before leaving in the evening.
5. Each child will receive three good wholesome meals during the day.
6. Applicants must furnish the matron with full name and address.
7. Infants brought up by hand must be supplied by mothers with proper appliances for feeding, and necessary changes of clothing.

At the Creches.

WHAT IS A CRECHE?

will doubtless be asked by some, at least, of the younger readers of these pages. Well, these creches have been established by reason of a need in city life. Many mothers who are compelled to earn a living for their children are quite unable to take their infants with them. To do so would mean the refusal of work, with consequent on-rushing distress.

WHAT CAN THE MOTHERS DO?

It is just here that the forethought of mother love provides help. In various suburbs groups of ladies, many of them very wealthy, have formed societies with a creche, or place where children can be left at a stated charge for the day. The mother is then free to go out to work for her little ones, and at night

SHE CALLS FOR HER CHILD,

or children, as the case may be.

So that justice may be done to each of these societies whose officers have communicated with me, I give a few particulars respecting them. To begin with, the one called the

PRARRAN, SOUTH YARRA, AND TOORAK CRECHE, situated at 19 Princes-street, Prahran. About forty children is the weekly number left for the loving oversight of the kind and skilful matron.



The Electrical Engineering School

A Training Institute for Electrical Engineers Analysts, Assayers and Metallurgists. Apply for Prospectus to the Principal, at 358 Collins Street, Melbourne.

This Creche owes its existence very largely to the generosity of Mrs. Sumner, who donated £300 to furnish and establish the place.

HERE IS A RULE

for the matron's guidance, indicative of the motherly interest taken in the children by the Committee.

4. Those children able to sit at table must be taught to eat properly. A spoon and plate must be provided for each child.

A GREAT BOON.

That the Creche has been of very great benefit to many working mothers (even in the small way in which the Committee are at present compelled to operate) there can be no doubt, for the number of admissions during the year shows a total of 1751, thus enabling the mothers to go to their work outside the home, and increase the means for the support of their families, leaving their younger children at the Creche in full confidence that they will be

WELL FED AND CARED FOR

in every way, at the merely nominal charge of 2d. per day for families. The children's fees of course form a very small item in the maintenance fund of the house, therefore it is necessary that outside support must be obtained. Up to the present the Committee have not lacked kindly assistance, by way of entertainments in aid, and some few donations, which have enabled them to continue the work so far.

For a crowded centre of working people like Brunswick, such an institution is an inestimable boon.

COLLINGWOOD CRECHE.

The Collingwood Creche, or day nursery, was opened in 1886 as a branch of the work carried on by the Social Improvement Society connected with the Australian Church.

In 1888 the Social Improvement Society handed over the Creche to a new body, to be called the Creche Society. Children are taken from a fortnight old up to six years. Fees: one child, 3d.; two or more children in same family, 2d. each child; if child attends school he or she is admitted to the Creche from 4 to 6.30 p.m. for the charge of 1d. Children get

THREE MEALS A DAY.

and are watched and cared for by matron and assistant. The object of the Creche is to care for young children whose parents are away working, or who require to work at home without the children, or even those mothers who want to go shopping, or anywhere where it would be inconvenient to take little ones.

Over 2500 attendances have been given by children in a single year. Of course the same child was frequently brought again and again. Still, the figures show how real a need has been met by the elect ladies of the Committee.

COUNTRY READERS

will find the record of this distinctly city form of charity somewhat interesting, but to the poor mother who has to "go out" for a living it is more than interesting; it is the very provision of heaven.

In this way, as in others, can the leisured sections of the community profitably forsake their leisure and help to bear a part at least of the burdens which crush out all hope from many a poor woman's breast.

attended to, and the dwelling was in a most filthy and disgusting state. The Society having made a searching investigation, gave the mother a good chance, but without avail. The children were brought before the Carlton Court as neglected children, the mother as a drunkard. Thanks to the kind assistance of Sister Florence and Miss Waugh, of the Wesleyan Home Mission and Children's Society,

A SPLENDID HOME

was found for the three children (they having been committed to the above-named Society by the bench), their maintenance being provided for by the remittances received from the father. The mother, having been in gaol on remand for a week, was discharged, and left the court to enter the Wesleyan Inebriate Retreat for nine months. Subsequently the father sent for the two boys to join him in W.A., and at the end of December the two lads left for West Australia.

ANOTHER CASE.

Family of W--- M---. Father in Western Australia; mother dead four months at date of report, leaving six children (from eighteen years to four years of age); one lad already in the country on a farm. The eldest daughter was by a first marriage, so that at the mother's



WAIFS ADMITTED TO THE LATROBE ST HOME.

Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Secretary, Mr. W. R. Church.

When this Society was started here by Lady Brassey, men stated that it was an insult to the colony, etc., but the sad stories of outrageous cruelty on the part of parents who have ceased to maintain any real parental feelings are only too common. The presence of such a Society in

more, and ever more, lying to hand. In each of the subjoined cases our Church workers were the instruments of rescue:—

C---, family of C---, consisting of a mother and three children, the father, a first-class cutter, in Western Australia, having accepted a remun-

death four young children (eleven to four years) were left to the tender mercies of their step-sister. The step-sister soon commenced a wild and headlong

CAREER OF VICE AND DEPRIVITY.

and the miserable home became a resort of vicious drunkards, even the little children's clothes being pawned by the step-sister for drink. The whole household were arrested, together with some men found on the premises—the latter receiving sentences as rogues and vagabonds. The children were committed to the Schools, and were subsequently transferred to the Wesleyan Children's Aid Society. The father, however, returned and satisfied the secretary of the Neglected Children's Department as to his character and position in Western Australia, and the children were discharged to him, so that they are now with their parent, away from the scenes of their recent danger.



MR. W. R. CHURCH,

Secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

our midst is a reproach to us as a people; that there is so evident a need for its activities should fill us with shame and bring confusion to our faces.

THERE IS NO ROOM HERE

for an extended notice of the Society, but a few extracts from their reports are given, exemplifying the work already done, and there is

nerative position with a leading house for a term of years. The mother received constant remittances, varying from 30s. to £2 10s. per week, but spent all in drink, the two eldest boys being

TERRIBLY NEGLECTED.

hardly ever having sufficient meals or proper clothing, the mother being almost constantly drunk. The youngest child (a baby) was never

Powell's Balsam of Aniseed.—Coughs.—Asthma.
Powell's Balsam of Aniseed.—Coughs.—Bronchitis.
Powell's Balsam of Aniseed.—Coughs.—Lung Troubles.
Powell's Balsam of Aniseed.—Coughs.—Night Coughs.
Powell's Balsam of Aniseed.—Coughs.—Influenza.
Powell's Balsam of Aniseed.—Coughs.—Sure Remedy.
Powell's Balsam of Aniseed.—Coughs.—Safe and Reliable.

Trade Mark—Lion, Net, and Mouse.
Established 1824. Sold by Chemists throughout the world. In bottles, 1s. 1d., and upwards.

Drink **SEAL BRAND TEA,** It is the **PRICE, GRIFFITHS & CO.,**
Best. **516 Little Collins-street.**

Latrobe St. Ragged School.

"No Boy Refused Admission."

For over thirty years the Latrobe-street Mission has been a centre of Christian activity on behalf of the degraded population in the centre of which it is placed.

Its honorary Superintendent, Mr. William Minton, whose portrait is given with this article, has the pleasure of seeing his invaluable work prospering on every hand. Like all other toilers on behalf of the lapsed and lapsing, he has long since found out that if the children and young people are to be rescued, they must have occupations found for them at night. Hence it is that the Mission is a scene of nightly effort to secure and retain the lads.

FREE TEAS AND GOSPEL MEETINGS

on Monday, juvenile choir on Tuesday, sewing classes and Dorcas Society for the girls on Wednesday, boys' gymnasium and athletic clubs on Thursday, Boys' Brigade on Friday, with separate gymnastic and dumbbell classes for girls (under a lady teacher); these are rounded off with Sunday School, Gospel meetings, lantern services, stum and police court visit-



ROUGH DIAMONDS.

ing, prayer-meetings, and macramé classes. Those who will be

THE MANHOOD OF NEXT GENERATION

are in hundreds of cases still upon our streets, awaiting rescue. To save these, to supply parental care, to educate and train them to earn a livelihood, above all to win them for Christ—these are the objects of the Home. The lads, of course, are not to be permanent residents; they simply pass through the Home on their way to a country situation.

SINCE 1895 OVER 1000 BOYS

have received the benefits of this institution, while during last year alone over 200 were admitted, and for the majority of them good homes were found.

There is an average of thirty residing at the Home.

THE ANNUAL PICNIC

in November to Sandringham (Picnic Point) proved a great success; forty-six van-loads, containing 1500 children and mothers, were present, the weather and the outing being delightful, the undertaking being carried out without a hitch or accident.

Catering for such a vast crowd was no small matter, but the contented faces showed that the provisions were ample and of the best. Included in the list of eatables were 103 large loaves, 250lb. of meat, 2000 buns, 2000 tarts, 2000 other pastry,

400lb. of cake, 2000 bags of lollies, with plenty of cordials, ginger-beer, and raspberry vinegar to

WASH THEM DOWN.

After the first feasting, all sorts of amusements were indulged in, and, with skipping contests, foot races, scrambling about the rocks, hunting for periwinkles and other sea monsters, paddling, bathing, etc., the afternoon passed right merrily, and only too rapidly. Towards sundown another rally was made for the evening meal, and shortly

sat down to dinner, the hall being thrice filled to its utmost capacity. At seven o'clock

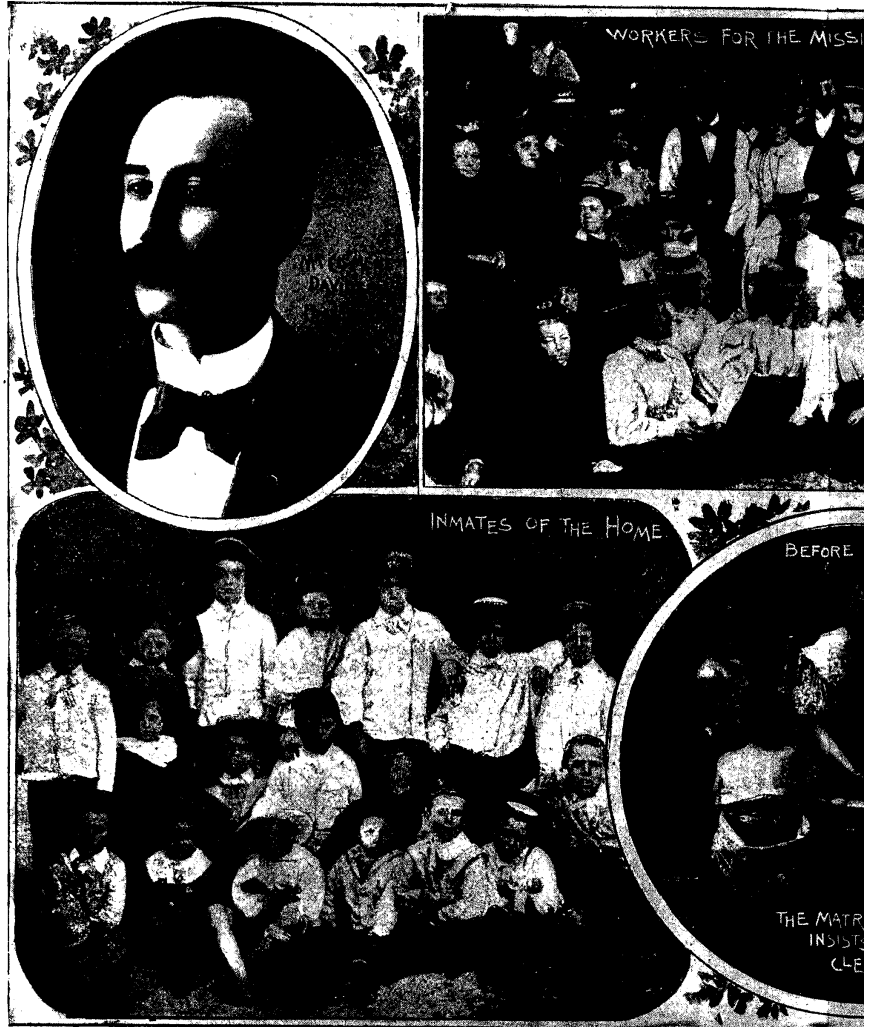
FATHER CHRISTMAS CAME

on the scene, laden with various kinds of toys, and there was great fun and merriment among the juveniles.

The Lily Branch of the Y.W.C.A. provided the evening's entertainment, at the close of which the distribution of prizes won at the recent picnic took place. The Kew Congregational Christian Endeavour provided a Christmas tree, with 1000 toys, and the boys and girls received the welcome gifts as they passed out.

Too much cannot be said of the honorary workers, who

REAP NO PECUNIARY GAIN, and are self-sacrificing in their efforts to promote the welfare and happiness of those with



LATROBE-STREET MISSION

afterwards the 46 vans, with their living freight, set out for the city, where they arrived about ten p.m.

CHRISTMAS DINNER.

The report just issued quotes from the *Weekly Times* as follows:—"Long before the time, crowds of children and mothers could be seen wending their way to Latrobe-street, from the lanes and alleys, and at four o'clock hundreds surrounded the doors, eager for the feast of good things provided for their enjoyment. At the first sitting the mothers were arranged at one table, the boys and girls were seated apart; the hall was nicely decorated; and the tables were laden with all kinds of choice edibles. There were 1000 pies, 3000 tarts, and other kinds of pastry, 50 plum puddings, 200 pounds of cake, and plenty of sandwiches, lollies, and fruit. Upwards of 1200

whom they come in contact. The institution is entirely supported by public subscription, receiving no Government aid, and we would commend it to our readers for their sympathetic and practical support."

MONDAY EVENING FREE TEAS.

All the afternoon the helpers are busy cutting up bread and sandwiches, and when six o'clock comes round there are generally about 120 awaiting admission at the Hall door for a meal. Many of these people walk from Collingwood, Brunswick, and Port Melbourne, and the meal we are enabled to provide them with is

THE ONLY "SQUARE" MEAL they see for days.

John Cartwright, WATCH AND CLOCK MAKER, Jeweller and Optician,
 Watch and Clock Repairs a Specialty. Over Fifty Years' Practical Experience.
 151 CHAPEL ST., WINDSOR
 (Opposite New Bank of Australasia)

ARTISTIC PHOTOGRAPHY. A. H. WILLIAMS, Artist Photographer
 (late Yeoman's), 215 Clarendon Street, S. Melbourne
 Only one standard of work—the best. Specialities—Studies of children, and copying and enlarging old photos. Views of buildings, interiors, bridal and lawn parties, yachts, &c., of the highest excellence at a moderate tariff. Open on Saturday afternoons and all holidays. Trams stop at the door, at Park Street Junction.

During the winter months our supplies are taxed to the utmost, as the children come in greater numbers, and can always eat more. Poor little half-starved things, we are glad to give them what is sent along; nothing is ever wasted—hard crusts and stale pastry vanish like magic before these waifs and strays of the Melbourne city streets. There is always plenty of hot, steaming tea on the boards, and this is usually replenished several times before the wants of mothers and all are satisfied. After tea is finished the Gospel service begins. Well-known Sankey's hymns are heartily sung, a chapter is read, and a short, inspiring address on the

SAVIOUR'S DYING LOVE

to man is given. Many a weary mother, many a hardened man, and many a little waif has found Jesus as their Saviour in our Mission Hall.

W. and G. M. This is probably

ONE OF THE SADDEST CASES

of all. The father of the boys is dead, and the mother, half-demented with trouble and hunger, tried to climb the cemetery fence to get to her dead husband, in the hope that he who had been the bread-winner could yet aid her and her starving children. They were arrested, and brought before the Carlton court, when the boys (infants almost) were handed over to our care, and are now doing well in the Home.

G. C. ("Snaky.") This boy was found in Bourke-street eking out an existence by selling matches. cleverness in DODGING THE POLICE.

He received his nickname on account of his He was taken in hand, and after a stay at the Home, has been transferred to a country situation.

after care and attention, he recovered. He has since been adopted, and is now in his new home up the country.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS

tell their own tale, and serve to make more distinct the story of the splendidly preventive and rescue work done by that band of Christ's men and women known as Latrobe-street Mission Workers.

MINISTERING CHILDREN'S LEAGUE.

THE COTTAGE BY THE SEA, QUEENSLIFF.

Motto of the League: "No day without a deed to crown it."

THE OBJECTS OF THE LEAGUE are (1) to promote kindness, unselfishness, and the habit of usefulness, and to create an earnest desire to help the needy and suffering. (2) To aid the necessities of the poor, supplying them with warm clothing, comforts, etc. (3) To help maintain the Cottage by the Sea, Queenscliff.



OUR WORK AND WORKERS

RESCUE WORK.

The following instances, culled from the Home's books, show in some slight measure the various ways in which boys come under its care, and the class of lads with whom we are brought in contact. The nickname in brackets is the one given to them by their companions of the streets, and used with more regularity than the one they received when registered.

J. L. ("Hungry Jim"), a bright boy, roaming the streets, obtaining his food by begging and whatever chance threw in his way, sleeping at night in any corner sufficiently obscure to escape the police. Jim was brought to the Home, and quickly appreciated what a regular, substantial meal and a good bed meant. He has been adopted by a kind-hearted Christian lady, and Jim enjoys his change of fortune.

E. M. ("Froggy") came to the Home in a filthy condition. This is a case only too numerous in our city. His father deserted his mother, and left her to struggle on. This she bravely did, till, through want of food, she became ill, when the boy came under our care.

T. H. ("Shivery Tom") was found sleeping under bags on the wharf. Strange as it may seem,

NUMBERS OF BOYS "DOSS" IT

in a similar manner night after night. Tom was brought to the Home, and after a warm bath, was re-clad, and subsequently sent to a good country home.

J. L. ("Buffalo Jim") was raging furiously in the country when he fell off the pony, and having no friends, was brought to our Home, where,



ROUGH DIAMOND POLISHED.

The League was founded by the Countess of Meath in London about twelve years ago. As soon as the idea was thoroughly understood, branches were started, not only throughout Great Britain, but also in other parts of Europe, in America, India, and throughout the colonies.

THERE IS ONLY ONE RULE

for the League: "Every member must try to do at least one kind deed every day." Children join as members, and adults as Associate members. The latter are expected to pay the sum of 2s. yearly to the local branch, half of which is remitted to the nearest centre for general expenses, and the other moiety for local expenses. In order to maintain the interest, fortnightly, monthly and quarterly meetings are held by the Branches.

THE MEETINGS are of a varied character, and opportunities are given to the members to make clothing, etc., for the poor, and toys, scrap-books, etc., for sick children. Many of the hospitals, children's homes, and other benevolent institutions have been helped by the young people. They have arranged entertainments, garden fetes, bazaars, etc., in aid of local charities, and in maintaining the work carried on by

THE COTTAGE BY THE SEA.

This structure, which has been built, and is free of debt, is the outcome of the Countess of Meath's wish that the Ministering Children's League of Victoria should have a home for weak children.

MR. A. E. BENNETT, DENTIST, 76 & 78 GERTRUDE ST., FITZROY.

AT WALLACH'S CASH FURNISHING WAREHOUSES, Elizabeth-st., Superior Kauri Wardrobes, 50s. each.

A MOTHER COULD NOT RECOGNISE HER CHILD.

The number of the children visiting at the Cottage from October to April has been 102—viz., girls 64, boys 38, most of whom stayed a month; many who greatly needed it, and of whom the doctor said it was their only chance of getting permanently strong, some eight, and some ten weeks.

Some very touching letters have been received from the parents of the children who have been inmates, expressing heartfelt thanks for the benefits received. One mother, whose child had come in a very weak state from an up-country town,

A DIVIDED CHRISTMAS DINNER.

One Christmas Day we were quite full, and plenty of good things had been provided. Just before dinner we heard of four children in a cottage near, whose mother was dead, and father out of work, for whom nothing was prepared. We told our little band about it. Here was an opportunity for our children to live out what they prayed. So directly they had their dinner, a basket was packed, and the children set off to take a share to those who had none.

On the hot and dusty road, passing the Cottage every day, was an old man, the driver of the 'bus.

spare a little, so as to make it possible for the committee to nurse back to health and strength the children of the poor?

THEIR STAY IS RESTRICTED

to a fortnight, except in special cases. The expenses of transit both ways must be borne by the parent or guardian of the child, but no charge is made for maintenance while at the Cottage.

Children can be sent by any branch of the League, if there is room, the ages of the girls to be from four to fifteen years, and boys from four to ten years old.

LIKE A MINISTERING ANGEL

Mrs. Sargeant watches over her charges, and with mother-love and trained skill she nurses them.

No one who visits Queenscliff should miss paying a visit to the Cottage, for in it one has a beautiful instance of what may be called concrete Christianity.

GLIMPSES OF ENGLISH CHILD-LIFE.

WITH THE BARGEES AND GIPSIES.

As with the workers in England, so here there is the ordinary street waif to be dealt with; but in the homeland there are sections of population, which the exigencies and natural conditions of the country call into existence, such as do not obtain in these lands. I have therefore ventured to give some particulars of two of these sections, viz., the children of the bargees and gipsies respectively.

THE NETWORK OF CANALS,

with the great opportunities of cheap haulage and roadway which they present, are the scene of the labours of the bargees. On the boats, or barges, the families of the bargees have been accustomed to live, but under conditions of the most unsatisfactory nature.

THE CONDITIONS OF FAMILY LIFE

for the up-bringing of children were such as to lead to great misdoing. Whole families, including the parents, slept and ate in the one



A DAY'S DELIGHT.

wrote that so marked was the improvement that she did not recognise her own child until she said "Mother."

FROM HELPLESSNESS TO SELF-HELP.

Several very sad cases of little sufferers from spinal and hip disease have been wonderfully benefited, and one week no small stir was created among the children by the admission in two days of three children, each having the misfortune to lose their right leg, two having been amputated at the thigh. They had all been in very bad health from deep-seated bone disease for a length of time, and one was in danger of losing her other leg, and for some time after her admission was in a critical state. But constant and energetic care was rewarded, and by carrying out the instructions of Dr. McDougall whose kindness and attention were much appreciated, she at last rallied from being a helpless invalid, having to be carried everywhere, to a bright, smart girl, able to go about on her crutches, and enjoy a swing and many other games. This girl is still in the Home, and as her parents are very poor, and she will need to earn her living, we are teaching her to do crochet lace and other useful and fancy work for sale. I may add she is a very apt pupil.

RESCUED FROM A CONSUMPTIVE'S GRAVE.

Another case of a girl for whom we have been able to do a great deal, was a tall, lank girl of 16, in very bad health. Her brother and sister, older, were dying of consumption, and, from lack of proper food, and helping to nurse them, it seemed as if she would go too. Six weeks of sea-bathing, good food, and regular living made such an improvement in this girl that we felt we wanted to do more for her. We began to teach her to wait table, to answer a door nicely, and made a smart little parlour-maid of her. Then, as she was destitute of clothes, we got calico and flannel, and made a complete outfit for her; some dresses were given, and one M.C.L. girl took off her own jacket and gave it to her. Then the cook, feeling she too must help, gave her a new hat, and a kind lady provided aprons, some for morning, some for afternoon wear. Then, fully equipped with clothing, and nicely trained as a servant, strong and well in health, she returned to take a situation, to make one less in a widowed mother's over-crowded home, and one less victim to that fell disease, consumption.

We had heard he was sometimes tempted to drink, so we hit on the plan of giving him a lemon squash in the morning, and a cup of tea in the afternoon, the children taking turns to watch for him and take it out; one boy gleefully remarking: "HE WON'T WANT A 'LONG BEER' NOW!" We had our reward for that in his grateful interest and assurance that we had helped him much.

BRANCHES OF THE LEAGUE

have been formed throughout Victoria, with most blessed results. They afford practical and improving scope for the warm and strong love of



THE COTTAGE BY THE SEA.

the children. Anyone who desires to make themselves more fully acquainted with the working of this beautiful charity should communicate with Mr. G. M. Hitchcock of Geelong.

VISITORS ARE WELCOMED

at the Cottage-by-the-Sea any day but Sunday, from two to five p.m. It should be borne in mind that the cost of maintaining the institution is heavy, and that the number of inmates must be rigorously regulated by the amount of contributions received. Who among our readers could not

room. The children were shamefully neglected, mentally and morally, while their shifting mode of life tended to make them into mere vagrant gamins. It was, until quite recently, a somewhat rare occurrence to find an ordinary bargee who paid serious attention to the education of his offspring. Moreover,

NAMELESS CRUELITIES

were perpetrated on these hapless ones, loudly calling for the intervention of Parliament. When it is remembered that there are in England

INDIGESTION CURED.

Readers should know that Ann Macaulay's Syrup, which has obtained hundreds of Testimonials is a sure and speedy cure in the worst cases of Indigestion, Liver and Kidney Complaints. Sold by Chemists and Country Stores. If you have any difficulty in obtaining, it will be sent Post Free on receipt of 2s. from T. A. DICKSON, Chemist, Geelong.

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AT WALLACH'S CASH FURNISHING WAREHOUSES, Elizabeth-street, Marble Top Washstands, 21s. 6d. each.

70,000 children of bargees, it is clearly evident that general neglect of so large a number of young people is full of peril. Untutored in those matters that would uplift them, they were by cruel, avaricious and dissolute parents utilised as beasts of burden as opportunity offered.

AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT

has, however, been passed to secure for these 70,000 children at least a partial education. Moreover, numbers of the more reputable bargees, now that their attention has been drawn

young children—ragged, filthy, ignorant. There was only one bed, and on it sat an old and corpulent and palpably degraded old woman. A very young girl-mother sat nursing her emaciated infant, while a young man (possibly her husband) stood by. This was the only room, and in it all the above persons lived and slept and ate.

HALF-HATCHED EGGS AS FOOD.

In another hovel Mr. Smith entered he found the partially-clad inmates in a condition simply indescribably unwashed. Owing to many fights,

eggs, cracked them, and then into the children's mouths they went, half-hatched as they were. I really thought one of those youngsters would have been choked by one of the half-hatched young blackbirds. However, with a little

CRUSHING, CRAMMING AND TAPPING

on the back, the child escaped the threatened penalty. But to see a mother forcing food of this description down her child's throat," says he, "is a sight I never want to see again."

"The real old gipsy—the gipsy of the old time—is rarely found now in England. These van proprietors are generally men who have taken to the roads in preference to earning an honest and settled livelihood."

While we can thank God that we have not such a specially difficult class to work amongst, yet there is as real a degradation in our midst as ever disgraced a gipsy tent or bargee's floating hovel. Hence be it ours to aid in the removal of these excrescences from our civilisation.

EXPLANATORY.

It will be noticed that several rescue agencies are not specifically referred to in the foregoing sketches, hence a few words are needed to prevent misconception.

Every metropolitan child rescue society of note was communicated with, and invited to co-operate in presenting a complete view of this aspect of "The Social Work of the Church." For one reason or another they refrained, and for this reason only have the Salvation Army, the Roman Catholic societies, and Miss Sutherland's work failed to find a place in this record. Had they been willing to supply particulars respecting their work, as the others have gladly done, it would have been our pleasure to have inserted their statements.

Dr. Thomas, a popular medical man at Maesteg, Glamorganshire, recently died, and his funeral was attended by about 15,000 people. All the collieries and workshops in the district were closed, and the blinds of every house were drawn. Twenty-seven clergymen and ministers were present at the service. The immense throng joined in singing a well-known Welsh hymn.



FRED AND ALICE, TWINS RESCUED BY LATROBE ST. MISSION.



to the matter, are securing cottages for their wives and families, so as to allow of the latter getting the educational advantages that are placed within reach of all.

THE VICTIMS OF ILL-USAGE.

"As a rule," says a competent observer, "the children who live upon the canal boats are as much the victims of ill-usage as are the animals that draw them. It is literally a floating population."

THE GIPSIES.

In addition to the children of the bargees, our English brethren are confronted with another difficulty that does not present itself to us, viz., how to reach the children of the nomadic gipsy—and who is not interested in the gipsy? People's curiosity is easily aroused in these wanderers. Our early days give back memories of the child-stealing tales that were once told us. As fortune-tellers and as thieves, equally honest callings—they are perhaps unequalled by any other group of people in civilisation.

At this day there are some 50,000 gipsy children in the British Isles, and although the well-to-do van proprietors see to the education of their children, yet the vast majority of that 50,000 are sadly, deplorably, and persistently neglected. Their mental and moral condition is

SIMPLY APPALLING.

Mr. George Smith, the well-known gipsy reformer, is quoted in Tuckwell's "The State and Its Children" (Methuen) as stating that he visited an encampment in Epping Forest, and he tells a tale that makes very painful reading. Considerations of propriety compel emendations, but anyone who cares to read the omitted matter can find it in the book above referred to.

AN ENGLISH GIPSY'S WIGWAM.

He stopped at one wigwam. The father of the family, who sat outside the dwelling could not speak intelligibly. In the hut were their five

the father had been rendered nearly blind, and the whole family group was in a parlous condition through poverty. "Our firing," said he, without any sense of shame, "does not cost us anything, and in summer time the young 'uns picks up a lot of birds' eggs out



AS HE WAS BROUGHT TO LATROBE ST. MISSION.



AS HE LEFT IT.

of the forest, which are very nice for them if they are not too far hatched!

A DINNERLESS LAD.

Just at this juncture," Mr. Smith continues, "one of the boys came in with a nest of black-birds' eggs—poor little fellow, he was no doubt very hungry, for he had no dinner as yet. But he had not long to wait, for the mother took the



J. MEREDITH,
Surgeon Dentist,

153 Smith Street,
Fitzroy
(Op. Foy & Gibson).

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