

ever, be brief, the year just ended, though rich in blessings, having been unmarked by any events of importance.

In January last there were 87 boys in the Home; 61 were admitted during the past twelve months, making a total of 148 boys who have benefited by this charity during the year 1878. Of these 80 were removed by their parents, 17 absconded, and 18 were sent out to service—3 in the city and 15 to farmers in the country. Of this last number, 5 have proved satisfactory and are now bound to their employers, and 8 have been adopted by most worthy people as their own children. The average number of boys in the Home at any time during the past twelve months was 85—a large family to be clothed, fed, and cared for. The number of lads still serving their terms of apprenticeship is 26. During the past year 2 have fulfilled their term of service, and have received the money paid for them, which has been, as usual, placed out at interest by the treasurer of that fund until they were of age to receive it. The managers felt much encouraged in this particular branch of their work lately, by hearing from one of their boys who had gone to Manitoba with his employer some years ago, that he had now taken up land for himself, and hoped to make himself a home in the far west.

The managers have watched with much pleasure the steady and indeed rapid improvement made by the boys under their excellent teacher, Mrs. Arthurs. They passed a most creditable examination last summer, astonishing those present by the rapidity and correctness of their answers. At the conclusion nine of the boys were rewarded with prizes distributed by the Trustees of the Public Schools.

The managers have suffered much annoyance and anxiety during the past year on account of the very defective state of the drainage on the premises of the Home. During the heavy rains last summer the ground on either side of the house was constantly submerged, and then left covered with stagnant water, and though no expense was spared in endeavouring to remedy this evil, it is found impossible to prevent the basement of the house from being damp and uncomfortable. That the children enjoyed good health under these adverse circumstances can only be attributed, under Providence, to the excellent care and attention they received from the kind and indefatigable matron, Mrs. Munro.