

CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FUND.

IN journalism there is ample opportunity to become familiar with social conditions in a large city—the realistic side of life. Daily attendance at the police courts, nightly visits to the stations to write up the crimes of the day, attendance at inquests, murder trials and special investigations of vice, either deadens the sensibilities and creates cynical indifference or it awakens a great longing in the heart to be of service in uplifting humanity to a cleaner and happier order of things. If in the latter case, the little children in their helplessness and mute suffering must constitute an irresistible appeal. They are the innocent victims of all social injustice. Crowded in wretched hovels in back streets and lanes, they saw and learned but little that could make them better than their fathers. There were no playgrounds, and only a yearly Sunday school excursion to brighten their lives; and, studying these conditions, the idea of the FRESH AIR FUND occurred. Why not take them to the lakeside parks, the island, the country and village home, so that joy might be unconfined, and perhaps some life-long impressions gained from contact with nature, and association with good men and women who wished to be of service! Inspired with this thought, the following circular letter was sent to over two hundred citizens on May 15, 1888: