

The committee to whom was referred the subject of a temporary shelter for neglected and destitute children beg to report that in their opinion the greatest care should be taken to prevent the idea getting abroad that the children's shelter is in any sense a permanent home for children. It was established as a temporary shelter for abused, neglected and deserted children, to be open to this class night and day without fee of any kind, but only affording shelter and protection until the children can be suitably disposed of either by compelling parents to do their duty towards their offspring or securing for homeless children, or those whom the courts decide should be removed from parental control, admittance to one of the public institutions provided for such cases.

It is therefore not desirable, in the opinion of your committee, that any child should be kept in the shelter longer than one month, except for very special reasons, and as a rule ten days should suffice to provide for a proper disposal of any child.

Where the parent or parents of any child admitted to the shelter is alive and residing in Toronto, and the shelter committee believe that the child has been improperly treated, the case should be reported to the staff department of the police force, in order that it may be fully investigated and the society thus released from responsibility.

Where children of tender years are found alone on the streets after 10 o'clock, p.m., begging, selling papers, or wandering about, the officers or members of the society, either by themselves or with the assistance of a police constable, should take the child or children to the shelter, and report the case as aforesaid. In all cases where children are picked up on the streets, whether lost or otherwise, and taken to the shelter, the case should be reported to the police, in order that the parents or guardians, if any, may be communicated with at once. Signed, J. J. Kelso; D. Archibald, staff inspector Toronto police force; Robert Hall, city missionary.