

objects of the Children's Aid Society. First, it strives to give each child some education. Secondly, it tries to provide a "children's friend" at the Police Court, and to have a separate place of confinement while awaiting trial—how necessary this is anyone who has at all studied the question will easily determine. Thirdly, there is a temporary shelter provided for neglected and abandoned children, which shelter I visited yesterday, and about which we will talk presently. Next, the society hopes to help newsboys to a better future; to keep boys under 16 out of those moral pest-houses—lodgings; to introduce boys' clubs; to promote the purchase of playgrounds for poor children; and to get the School Board to leave the playgrounds open till dusk. Are not all these laudable objects, and if we are our brothers' keepers, are we not bound in every way to help?

Ah, if you had seen the little abandoned children yesterday. There they were tumbling over each other, squalling, playing, fighting among themselves, only stopping for a minute to stare at me with solemn eyes, and then go on with the fun. One small lad never speaks a word, although he is neither deaf or dumb, merely a young apostle of silence. A chubby two-year-old looked at me crossly, as though he resented being called "Carrots," and didn't understand having his head patted. Some of the bigger lads of nine, or thereabouts, are sad little thieves. They will steal anything, from penknives to chewing gum, and will steal off and hide, to smoke cigar butts, or, indeed, any gutter tobacco they can find. Who shall blame them? Not you nor I certainly, madam. Our boys would do the same if they were allowed to grow up rank weeds like these poor chaps. Phrases and fine language are of no use in face of the stern fact that the children if not helped in time will grow up and swell our criminal classes. They are there and cannot be got rid of.—KIT.

PRISON REFORM CONFERENCE.

A prison reform conference was held in Toronto, November 26, 1889. Mr. W. H. Howland presided, and there was a large and representa-