

CAUSES OF NEGLECT.

Neglect of children is rarely a wilful and premeditated evil. Poor people often become discouraged and despondent; they are frequently out of work and not able to earn much even when employed; rents are high and food seems to be getting dearer every day, and it is just as often as not that drinking results from the despair that comes to men and women unable of their own strength to battle against the ills of life. Therefore, the emphasis in this work is always laid on *prevention*. Wherever a family is found in which the children are destitute and unable to attend school, hearing constantly oaths and blasphemy, and witnessing scenes of drunkenness and immoral living, it is our duty to bring to the attention of such people in a kindly way the wrongs under which their children suffer, and persuade them by friendly advice, and not infrequently by practical help, that they can and should do better, rather than take chances on losing their most precious possessions, the boys and girls of the family.

The whole plan of the Children's Aid movement is founded on this principle and has in the past resulted in thousands of homes being improved and children's lives made cleaner and happier with little more than a visit and a warning.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES.

The Act provides for the organization of Children's Aid Societies in every centre of population. There are about seventy of these organizations in existence in Ontario at the present time in addition to numerous small committees and correspondents, and wherever there is no such Society or committee, it is our wish and desire that the friends interested in children should get together and form a society. The objects are as follows:

First.—To carry out the provisions of the Children's Protection Act of Ontario, in receiving and providing homes for neglected and dependent children.

Second.—To systematically agitate against all that tends to rob children of the right to grow up in an atmosphere of purity and moral cleanliness.

Third.—To prosecute parties who contribute towards the delinquency of children.

Fourth.—To create a sentiment for the establishment of wholesome uplifting influences, such as small parks, playgrounds, gymnasiums, free baths, social centres and the like.