

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.

A WORK OF FAITH.

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

"Ask and it shall be given you."—Luke, 11, 9.

"Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart; wait, I say, on the Lord."—Ps. 27, 14.

"Thy God hath commanded thy strength: strengthen, O God, that which Thou hast wrought for us."—Ps. 68, 28.

More than fourteen years ago, two Christian women belonging to Toronto, became deeply impressed with the very great necessity which existed, for the establishment of an Hospital for Sick Children. In visiting the poor and sick they found many little ones, languishing and dying, for the want of pure air, good nursing, and proper nourishment. After many months of waiting on God in prayer, at length, led as they believed by the Holy Spirit, they resolved to publish in the city newspapers, a plain statement of the needs of these sick children, and await results. The response was hearty and sympathetic, and the ladies were encouraged by promises of support, not only from friends in the city, but elsewhere, in case they decided to establish the hospital. The receipt of \$90.00, sent anonymously from the town of F—, left them no alternative but to "go forward," and other contributions following rapidly, clearly indicated that the movement was of the Lord.

From the first it was understood, that all gifts should be voluntary, as the following extract from the first circular, issued in the interests of the projected Hospital, will show: "In securing means to establish the institution, we do not intend to solicit help from any one, further than to give information relative to plans, purposes and wants; believing that if the work is of the Lord, He holdeth the hearts of all men in His hand, and will dispose them to assist in such manner as may be needed. There will therefore be no canvassing the city for funds, contributions will be voluntary in the fullest sense of the word. Those interested will not go into debt, but will begin in a small and economical way, believing that the seed, if of the Lord's planting, will grow."

A preliminary meeting was held in the month of February, 1875, when it was reported that \$277.79 were in the treasury, besides materials of various kinds, and several articles of furniture. Soon after a building on Avenue St. was rented, and on the 23rd March, following the preliminary meeting, the Hospital for Sick Children was opened with a service of prayer and praise. A little band of praying women gathered around the originators of the enterprise, and these met every Friday morning for prayer. They followed literally the injunction of the apostle, and in *everything* by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, made their requests known unto God. No matter how simple the need, it was brought to the Hearer and Answerer of prayer, and though there were many discouragements, and though answers to importunate prayers were often delayed, their hearts and minds were kept, through Christ Jesus, in perfect peace.