

the end of a period previously announced the library is exchanged for another which has been read by another community, and the process continued so long as new libraries are to be had.

The peculiarity of the new movement is that these libraries are sent only to sparsely settled farm communities. Far removed from railroad centers, with uncertain mail facilities, condemned by poverty to isolation from current thought, these communities welcome the coming of the libraries as oases in a thirsty desert. The books are absorbed with the most intense interest, while the newly awakened appetite eagerly calls for more.

These experiments have been carried on with private enterprise and funds, but the idea could easily be put to use by the people themselves. A community might form an association, with a small family admission fee, choose a librarian, and select a few books. A few dollars could never be made to go so far as at present in the purchase of books. Better still, county organizations, represented by librarians from several sections, could proceed upon a prearranged plan of purchasing and exchanging books. Here is a field where the minister's encouragement and help would bring large returns in increased mental and spiritual activities among the people.

Pauperism on the Increase.

The destruction of the poor is their poverty.—Proverbs x. 15.

PAUPERISM is alarmingly on the increase in Indiana, according to a recent report of the State Board of Charities. The State is taking care of nearly 15,000 people in the public institutions, while the number of persons aided by the counties during the year reached 71,414. The total cost to the counties reached \$500,000.

One person out of every 31 in the State as a whole received county aid.

It is a suggestive fact that, as a rule, the largest number of persons aided was in the richest and most progressive counties. One of these is Jefferson, where one in every 13 received help during the year. Montgomery, which contains Crawfordsville, known as the "Athens of Indiana," furnished relief to one in every 16.

Adams is a thinly settled county, not up to the average of wealth in the State, but only one in 74 received aid. In DeKalb, another farm county, the proportion was one in 65; while the farming county of Ripley aided but one in 208. England found, sixty years ago, that a large poor fund was an ever-present incentive to pauperism. When she reduced her fund by one half the demands upon it were proportionally less. Many sociologists believe that relief should never be furnished outside of institutions especially equipped, such as poor-houses, poor-farms, and hospitals.

A Church Cooking-School.

Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.—Proverbs xxii. 6.

THE People's Church, of St. Paul, has added a cooking department to the other branches of its industrial school. The instruction is to be in three branches. There will be a class for girls of fifteen years of age and upward, which will be free, and those able to pay are requested not to participate in its benefits. The second class is for mothers, and is also free. Instruction to this section will include the buying of foods and their chemistry and composition. The third class is to be made up of those who are able to pay a moderate price for instruction. This is to be fixed at \$3 for the course. The school now includes departments of sewing, mending, kitchen garden, and domestic economy. The new training in cooking makes the course complete.