

STATEMENTS.

Page 12.—“The whole of this machinery of ‘indentures,’ though it has a look of being business-like, appears to me to be worthless or delusive.”

Page 13.—“I have several times driven through miles of forest, to find the settlers’ first home, just put upon the few acres of recently-cleared land.”

Page 14.—“Some of the places, indeed, are worse than a Board of Guardians would consent to place a child in in England.”

Page 14.—“Many of Miss Rye’s children are in the States.”

Page 14.—“Miss Rye does not profess to have any regular or organised means of supervision at all.”

Page 14.—“A large proportion of children sent out are the semi-criminals of our large cities and towns.”

Page 17.—“Children, I am assured, are not allowed to leave Miss Rye’s ‘Home’ until they are in a fit state. With reference to her children, however, I heard of more than one similar complaint!”

Page 18.—“Suitable provision should be made for sick and infectious cases.”

Page 18.—“Regulations adapted to the character of the establishment should be prescribed.”

Page 18.—“They should be periodically inspected.”

Page 18.—“One intelligent girl complained.”

ANSWERS.

In Canada and in the States we have especial laws relating to adoption. The papers I use in Canada were drawn up for me by a very eminent Canadian barrister, and we have found them to work as well as indentures work in England, that is, not perfectly, but very fairly.

See Synopsis in Appendix. p. 4, reprinted from the Canadian Government Report.

Why not give the names of the children so placed, and the people with whom residing? Also, what was the girl’s character, and if it was her first or fifth or even tenth place?

Twenty-four out of 1,168, and of these 11 were placed there in 1870, before the work became so popular in Canada.

See Miscellaneous Particulars, No. 6, with names and addresses of co-workers in Canada.

The actual figures are 887 workhouse and 281 stray, and of these stray children three only from a Reformatory; while as to the conduct of the girls in Canada, I beg to refer you to Miscellaneous Particulars, No 2, by which it will be seen that while 16 workhouse girls have had illegitimate children in the six years, we have not yet had one of our stray or Peckham girls so disgrace us.

More than one out of 1,168 children! with very many of the children delivered over to me from the workhouse schools, having their heads in a terrible state. I wonder who will undertake to find matrons clever enough to comb children’s heads at sea, with most probably children and matrons all sick together!

As far as I am concerned, I shall first have to get the infectious cases, as in the past six years, with the exception of 11 cases of measles in 1874, we have had no infectious disease and no other sickness worth speaking about, as the death-rate and medical bills show. The attendance of a medical man has chiefly been needed for scrofulous cases and old sores that have broken out from change of air and food. The gradual rise in our medical bill (small though it is) is due to the fact that every year up till 1874, has seen a gradual increase in my numbers, and therefore necessarily, according to the laws of general average, an increase of the possible numbers of returned and sickly children; a great allowance must also be made for the fact that my late matron had a habit of sending for a medical man to attend the children in my absence, and very frequently unnecessarily.

Should the work be undertaken by the Government no reasonable person could possibly object to this.

The Canadian Government have, at my request, consented to do this in the future. See Appendix, page C, letter 3.

Why is not the name of the girl and of the “Home” also given?