

REPORT OF ALEXANDRA INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

To the Governors of the Industrial School Association.

It is with hearts considerably saddened and depressed that we appear before you at this Annual Meeting to present our report for the past year. Charities of a similar nature to our schools have so multiplied of late that the interest which at one time was all centered in our work has become divided, and girls are being committed to another institution which from the very nature of its surroundings, we feel cannot do the work we aim at. The desire of the Ladies' Executive of the Alexandra Industrial School and of the estimable superintendent and matron, is to surround the girls with the safe environments of a home and not those of a prison, and to arouse in their hearts a desire for better things. At the same time strict discipline is maintained, which, combined with good religious and moral training, we find to be absolutely necessary before they can be made fit inmates for any respectable home. The results in many cases have been most encouraging, and all we ask now is to have more girls sent to us. We know that there are only too many who are treading the downward way for want of a helping hand being held out to them—cases that in after years will cause the government expense far beyond that of placing them at the Alexandra School for a term sufficiently long to render them respectable and useful members of society. At present we have only seventeen girls, and in a few days one of these will be leaving, reducing us to a number quite insufficient to pay expenses, even though the expenses have been kept so low as to puzzle the mind of the most economically inclined person. Last winter the girls, who had been occupying two cottages, were crowded into one, in order to spare fuel and light. This year it is proposed to do the same. The crowding will be less, of course, but quite sufficient to be anything but agreeable. Thus, you see, everything possible has been done to economize funds. We feel sure that when the treasurer's report is read, you will be unanimous in saying that Miss Walker, the superintendent, and Miss Bainard, the matron, have done wonders; and if friends would only interest themselves more, and visit the school more frequently, they would see that wonders of another kind were being