



Published Monthly under the Auspices of Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

Vol. VII.—No. 4]

TORONTO, MARCH 1st, 1902.

[PER ANNUM, 25c.

Editorial Notes

“HEARING you are the representative of Dr. Barnardo's Homes, I write to make an application, wishing to obtain a good strong lad of fourteen to sixteen years of age.” So reads, with slight variation, letter after letter that we receive at this season of the year by every morning, mid-day and afternoon mail. Sometimes we have a dozen at a time, sometimes fifty. The telephone and the door-bell are continually ringing on the same mission, and “wanted boys” would seem to be the cry throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion. We have said in past years that the demand has beaten the record; but up to date in the present year all previous figures have been far and away outstript; and never have we known in our experience anything approaching the present demand we might say, outcry—for boy help. “Why don't you get a move on and go to work and bring enough out and supply the people?” said one indignant gentleman, whom we were obliged to inform that we can take no more applications for big boys, and that all but the smallest boys that we are likely to have to place are bespoken. We should have to make large additions to our clerical staff to answer all our application letters if it were not for the help of circular letters which suffice to reply to the majority of our correspon-

dents, and by this means enable us to deal promptly with the mass of manuscript matter that comes in each day, and to convey to the writers our regretful inability to meet their requirements, or only after a long period of their patience.

Degrees and Varieties of Impertunity.

Our would-be clients approach us in many and various ways. Not a few of our correspondents appear to imagine that we keep boys hung round our establishment like sides of beef or quarters of mutton round a butcher's shop, and that they only need to describe with elaborate detail the kind of being they require, stating the size, weight, colour of hair and other particulars, to have it handed down and to be served forthwith. Some wish us to believe that their sole or principal object in taking a boy is to succour the orphan and provide a home for the friendless, the particular orphan and friendless one whom we are to select as the object of their benevolent aspirations to be, of course, a strong, able, well grown lad of fourteen or upwards. Our answers to these gentry almost always begin with a polite expression of regret. Many of our correspondents are prompt, business-like and practical in their communications, others much the reverse. Some write very long letters, others very short, post-als. Occasionally