

We have heard from time to time from some of those who have been in the home in the past. One writes from her mother's home: "It is so good to be with mother, and to be doing right." One who had been in and out several times wrote twice to a long tried friend of this Home, expressing thanks to the ladies for "their kind and tender care." She also says: "If I could only put my sins out of my sight and begin a new life, I know the great and merciful God is able to take them all away." One of our girls whom we had learned to trust was called to Michigan to claim a thousand dollars left to her. We felt that with so much money she might be led astray. She stayed there all summer, keeping house for her brothers. Wishing the companionship of a friend in the Home, she sent money to pay her expenses to her. In the autumn she came back with her friend, bringing a valuable present to the new Matron. She gave her money to Mr. Alcorn for investment, and went to service. Her reasons for not remaining with her brothers were that they were trying to urge her into a mercenary marriage. To one of those who died in the Home the message came swiftly and suddenly, but we had reason to think she was prepared. One came in from the street and was in the Refuge only a few days when she died from the effect of exposure and dissipation. Such a case is its own awful commentary. One woman came to us several months ago asking to be taken in for a year. On being asked why she, a strong, active woman, capable of earning her own living, wished to come to the Refuge, she replied, "Its to get away from the drink. I tell you I'm a fool; I can earn my ten dollars a month, and have always done so, but I drink it all up, and I came here to try to get off the drink." Her anger against herself was almost tragical in its fierceness. Rarely do we find those who blame the right person, as she did.

On the 1st of July we were obliged to part with Mrs. Aiken, who for ten years had so faithfully performed the duties of matron. Her departure was a great cause for regret to herself, as well as to the managers of the Home. Her place was filled by Mrs. Spence, who had for a short time held the position of Assistan Matron. Mrs. Spence undertook her duties with considerable diffidence, feeling it would be no easy task to take Mrs. Aiken's place. But, almost contrary to our expectations—for we felt we had some explosive material—everything seemed to move on as calmly and systematically as ever. And to those who have been

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