

I regard this Department as being yet in an experimental stage, and it will require some time before reliable data can be obtained, upon which to base wise and correct legislation ; and better attention and more hearty co-operation on the part of Subordinate Lodges is necessary, in order to render the Juvenile Department successful and efficient as a nursery for our adult Lodges.

Our Society should wake up to the fact that this Department will, in the near future, be our principal recruiting ground. If properly looked after, these boys will make the best adult members, from the fact of their early training in principles of loyalty and Protestantism. Moreover their youth will likewise be of immense advantage to the parent Institution.

I regret to say the Juvenile Lodges are not growing in numbers or membership as they should do, considering the hundreds of thousands of English boys there are in this Dominion. Brethren, bestir yourselves and bring these boys into the fold. By so doing, you will by and by reap a rich harvest.

Hospital Board.

The Report and Financial Statement from the S.O.E. Hospital Board of Toronto for 1895 is before me, and is the only report concerning this branch of our benevolent work that has reached me.

The statement is a very full and concise account of the good work accomplished.

It appears that sixty Sons of England received treatment in the Toronto General Hospital during the year, twenty-four of whom were entirely at the charge of the S.O.E. Hospital Board, whilst the remaining thirty-six either wholly or in part paid their own expenses. Nine of the sick brothers who thus received medical treatment at the Hospital were from Lodges outside of Toronto.

It requires considerable funds to properly carry out this great work, and I earnestly commend it to the consideration and support of the brethren.

Naval Brigade.

The Annual Report of the Toronto Naval Brigade has been placed in my hands. In the absence of a financial statement, I am unable to do more than refer to the work in general terms.

The report shows that at the beginning of the year 1895 their liabilities were heavy. This indebtedness has been paid off, and current expenses have at the same time been met. They are working together harmoniously, and increasing in numbers and efficiency.