

the coveted distinction. They now hold what will be all through life a valuable testimony and certificate of character and conduct, and we heartily congratulate our young friends upon having earned a place on our roll of honour, and also in being so well started upon their careers in the country of their adoption. We have reviewed with great care the record of every boy before awarding him a medal, and, to the best of our belief and judgment, each one is fully entitled to the prize, and, furthermore, we believe that those who have received them will in the future well and worthily uphold the good name of the Doctor and his Homes, of which they possess such a handsome and valuable souvenir.



**A Vindication
of our Good
Name**

OUR list of medal-winners disposes satisfactorily of the question that so frequently agitates both our friends and non friends as to whether our boys do or do not keep the places to which they are sent. This is a point on which some of those who are prone to sit in judgment upon us profess themselves to be very sceptical, and it is sometimes spoken of as though it were a matter of common knowledge that the boys placed out amongst the farmers never keep their places, that they are constantly rambling about—here to-day and there to-morrow—and generally shiftless and undependable. We emphatically deny the charge, and our medallists of themselves are sufficient disproof. There are, of course, a good many changes and transfers in the course of every month. There is the small percentage who lose their places on account of ill health, or wrong doing, who are sent back to us because they have developed some objectionable habit, or become unmanageable, or have been guilty of some grave act of misconduct. There are, again,

the lads whom we move on account of their being unequal to the work required. Before placing the boy, we endeavour to form an opinion as to his capability and also of the situation in respect to the duties that will be expected of him, and we are generally successful, we are glad to say, in our selection. But sometimes it happens that an employer writes that the boy we have sent is not capable of the work for which he has been engaged and that a change is necessary. In such a case as this it generally happens that the employer recommends the boy to some neighbour whose work is lighter, and, after the necessary enquiries are made, a transfer is arranged. There are other cases in which boys are dissatisfied, or whom we find are not making the progress they should, or are not getting on with other young members of the household, or where there are obstacles in the way of their attending school. Removals occur from all these causes and many others, and add to the total of changes. Many of the bigger lads hire in fresh places for the sake of higher wages; others for the sake of change and fresh experience. But the number of those who run away from their places in defiance of their indentures is very small in proportion to the total number placed out, and marvelously small considering the conditions under which they live, the readiness and ease with which any boy can get work and, we are sorry to add, the scant scruples with which employers throughout the country will, under pressure of the general scarcity of help, not only break the tenth commandment by coveting their neighbour's servant, but surreptitiously offer him inducements to desert his service. We regard it as most creditable to both employers and employees that we have so few of such desertions to deal with, and that so large a percentage keep their places faithfully or only leave in an approved and recognized manner.