

Shelter. During the nearly seven months to September 30th, at which date the Society's year closes, 15 boys and 16 girls have been cared for. Some of these cases were sad and touching in the extreme. Drunkenness in the parents was the direct cause of the misery in the case of 22 of the children sheltered. Two of the girls were placed in the Girls' Home, two in the Alexandria Industrial School, one has been adopted into a respectable and cultivated home, and one, a baby a few weeks old, died. Of the boys, one has been placed in the Orphans' Home, two in the News Boys' Home, and a fourth was placed in the Victoria Industrial School. Four boys and one girl lost from other parts of the Province were cared for and then returned to their homes. One poor little idiotic girl, after being cared for for some time in the Shelter, was placed in the Asylum at Orillia.

The record of work is not large, but it is an earnest of larger work to be done in the future. Very much more must be done if our unfortunate street children are to be saved from impaired constitutions and from becoming criminals in the future. The situation of the Shelter must be brought nearer to No. 1 Police Station and to the Police Court. Money is needed, and surely rich Toronto people will, for the sake of Christ our Master, and for the credit of the City, contribute the requisite funds.

A Christmas treat was given on Christmas Eve to a very large number of poor children. It was a ray of comfort and brightness let in upon lives that dwell almost entirely amidst the darker shades of life.

Efforts have been made by the Society to secure such changes in the law respecting juvenile offenders, as well as in the administration of the law, as would effect their separation from the confirmed criminal class. Some progress has been made, but not all or nearly all that is necessary. The Provincial Government was waited upon, and the appointment of a Commissioner under the Act, "For the Reformation and Protection of Neglected Children," urged. Mr. John Baxter, J. P., was appointed, and a great improvement is the result. Still, owing to a defect in the law, which is given as the reason for the practice, children are still brought into the Police Court and into the very dock with old and hardened offenders. This association with old criminals can only have one—and that the worst of tendencies. Mr. Baxter has on all occasions manifested the utmost willingness to