

shine of ease. We will not dwell on these aspects of our work. We have to make ourselves, to some extent, a terror to evil-doers, and a return to the Home in disgrace will, we hope, always be a very unpleasant and much-dreaded experience for anybody, big or little. We are not often, however, called upon to open our doors to those whom we are not pleased to see. Of the whole number who have been placed out from the Home since its first opening, less than two per cent. have been returned through misconduct, and not half that number through failure of health. Otherwise it is a place of partings and meetings, comings and goings. We are constantly "welcoming the coming, speeding the departing" guest. We seek to use hospitality "without grudging," but no one is encouraged to make the Home a place for loafing and lounging. Our boys must "redeem the time." We are busy people ourselves, and we want our boys to be busy. If they have not got work for themselves, we can always find it for them. Work, hard work, and plenty of work, is our doctrine, our profession and our practice. We want no drones in our hive, and we live in a young country where there are great openings and noble possibilities as the reward of enterprise and labour, and we seek to inspire in our boys the desire to be "up and doing." We like, therefore, to make visits to the Home "short and sweet," and we confess that we feel a good deal of satisfaction when the premises are absolutely deserted, as they have frequently been of late, and we can reflect that every one of our boys is in his place and at work.

The correspondence that passes through the small and sadly overcrowded office is to us by far the most interesting feature of the work at our headquarters. Not less than twenty five thousand letters are received and sent out from the office during the twelve months. The extent and variety of this correspondence is coincident with the life

incidents and interests and prospects of the thousands of young people with whom we are in touch and for whom we are more or less responsible. We are the repository of the hopes and projects, the faults and shortcomings, the grievances and hardships, the failures in health and lapses in conduct of the thousands who make up our big family, and, as Dr. Barnardo's representatives, we have to seek to give the right counsel and direction and decision under all the perplexing and embarrassing circumstances that arise. Our powers of judgment and discrimination are ever on the strain. The balance has so often to be held between conflicting statements and opinions, and always with the sense that a boy's whole future life may depend upon the action that is adopted. One is ever fearful of mistakes, and conscious of imperfections, and we realize increasingly in every day's experience the need of "the patience toward all men" and of that higher wisdom that is "first pure, then peaceable," which cometh alone from the Author and Giver of every good and perfect gift.

With the advent of spring we hear of a good many of our family being "on the move," and the occasion is once again meet for a short sermon from the text of Horace Greeley's famous and oft-quoted advice, "Go west, young man." Westward ho! has been the watchword of the American continent for more than two centuries past. The young life of America, north as well as south of the international boundary line, has been continually expanding itself towards the West and taking its leave of the snug homesteads and crowded centres of population in the east to achieve its fortunes on the mighty prairies, where formerly the red man and the buffalo roamed and reigned supreme. Generation after generation have advanced the frontiers of civilization, converted the wilderness, literally, into a land of corn and wine and oil, and have built mighty cities, and clothed with rich farms and fer-