

till the age of fourteen or sixteen; the girls sometimes longer, at the discretion of the Committee. In age the children vary from four to sixteen, and though some are fairly healthy and strong, others are constitutionally weak, and require much individual care and attention. Among our delicate ones are four boys suffering from hip disease, who cannot walk without crutches, while another is partially paralysed. The future destination of these boys is a difficult problem for the ladies to solve, as their infirmity will prevent their earning a livelihood by any active work. During the year they have had some lessons in chair caning, which, after a little practice, they were soon able to accomplish very creditably.

We endeavour to improve all the children under our care physically, as well as morally; we know they have only themselves to depend upon when they leave us to enter upon the battle of life, and what is more essential to their success than the possession of a good constitution? With a view of securing this, we give them an abundance of fresh air and exercise, bright and well ventilated apartments, a liberal and varied diet, and insist upon scrupulous cleanliness both in person and habits. We earnestly desire to lay out the money entrusted to us to the best possible advantage for the benefit of the children, but to reduce the individual cost of each child to such a low figure, as to insure public commendation, for our economical management, does not enter into our scheme.

All the children receive an elementary education, but after twelve years of age, less time is spent in the school-room, and under the personal supervision of the Lady Superintendent, the girls are trained for domestic service, including instruction in cooking and laundry work. During the last few years we have placed several girls in private families in the city, where they are performing the duties required of them, with credit to themselves, as well as to those who have had the trouble of teaching them. The boys also take part in the house work; make their beds, clean boots, shovel snow in winter, and work about the grounds in summer. Some of them can mend their clothes very neatly, and two of the boys are expert knitters of stockings and mitts.

One of our boys has been more than a year with a physician in the city, and another, sent out this year, has a good situation with a gentleman in Westmount. Both are receiving wages, and giving satisfaction to their employers.

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