

were with us when she died, and we had the privilege of doing whatever was within our power to alleviate their grief. Their loss was not, however, without its high consolations. I must not forget to mention in this connection the self-sacrificing kindness which led our former laundress, a woman advanced in years and living in quiet comfort with her relatives, to come to us in our extremity. No one, of course, supposed she would be liable to attack, but she was prostrated by diphtheria in a most severe form, and although the complaint itself yielded to treatment her constitution never rallied, and after a lingering illness she died in the hospital of this city where she was for some weeks most kindly and carefully treated as a private patient.

DISCIPLINE.

It was unavoidable that, during long months of unsettlement, discipline should be, to some extent, relaxed. I had, however, no reason to believe that this led to any regrettable results. The pupils, as a rule, were well conducted and orderly in their demeanour, and only too glad when at length able to settle down to their studies with regularity and assiduity. It will be observed that one pupil is mentioned as "excluded for cause." The reasons which made her an unsuitable companion for other young girls were of a character which all judicious and thoughtful parents would appreciate, and need not be more specifically alluded to.

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS.

Among the most needed improvements urged in former reports was a new roof for the main building of the Institution. For years past the old sheet-iron deck roof had been a source of continual discomfort and expense. It has now been covered with a sloping slate roof, which adds much to the appearance of the structure and will, I trust, effectually prevent further trouble. In the interior of the Institution the alteration of the steam apparatus to allow of a lower pressure being used in heating the building, thus securing both enhanced safety and economy, and the more regular and effective supply of heat to some portions of the latter, has been brought to completion. This work has been done by our excellent engineer and his assistants without any outside help, and the intelligence, industry and energy, with which they have laboured during a period when some little respite from duty is usually to be expected is beyond all praise. The large amount of internal painting accomplished in the winter recess made any extensive work in this direction during the late vacation unnecessary.

THE GROUNDS.

My attention has been recently turned more particularly to beautifying the portion of the grounds lying nearest the city, and planting the new land in our rear with a view to its ultimate use as a park. Some four acres of the former have been laid down in permanent pasture and with, so far, excellent results. The trees and evergreens planted during the present year have been severely tried by the long prevailing drought and the intense heat of the season, but by frequent watering I am happy to report the majority have been preserved. We have had an uninterrupted and ample supply of water from our own spring, and I may hereafter submit a recommendation for the further saving, for outside purposes, of a large quantity which now runs to waste after all ordinary needs are supplied. I trust the good work of planting and ornamentation will receive in the coming estimates the usual friendly encouragement.

FARM AND GARDEN.

Our garden produce has been more prolific than at one time was to be expected, but in this and on our field crops the drought has told with serious effects. Our potato crop will fall short of our requirements, the tubers being small and in some instances immature

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