

and which we hope will awaken a still more lively interest in the work of this Department.

Let me here urge the women before me to take this subject to heart and make it a practical issue in their localities, not waiting to be reminded by a circular which, perhaps, is only read on the title-page, but use the means set forth in the "Children's Protection Act" (and which any woman may start), and each resolve that there shall be one more town whose children shall hear and obey the ringing of the Curfew Bell.

YOUNG WOMAN'S WORK.

(MISS ZILLAH RAE, Superintendent).

Your Superintendent felt very much like Rip Van Winkle in coming back to the "Y" Department and finding that instead of thirty-five "Y" Unions in Ontario in 1888, with a membership of almost one thousand, the number was down to six, with a few "Y" committees. This was not the result of any laxity on the part of those in charge, but of the numerous new outlets for Christian activity which have come into existence since those days. With head full of plans and heart full of resolves, she began the year of "Y" work, but it was otherwise ordered. We read that "those whom the Good Shepherd leads shall go in and out and find pasture." There is a going in as well as a going out into the stillness of His presence into experiences gained only by quiet waiting and the shutting of the door. Well for us if in the waiting we gain power.

In July, two hundred and twenty-two circulars were sent out and about fifty-four answers returned. Your Superintendent went across the border to Ottawa County Convention, in Quebec Province, and read a paper on "Y" work, and also read one at Carleton County Convention. During the year she had the pleasure of assisting Mrs. Barnes, World's Superintendent of "Y" work, in getting up the "Y" almanac for 1897, copies of which are to be found on the literature table. In March a social was given to the Ottawa "Y's."

Mr. J. Hale Ramsay, the W. C. T. U. benefactor has offered a banner to the Province showing the greatest increase of members in the "Y" Unions, but he has restricted it to the Unions which have no married women in them, and as years ago when this very vexed question of marriage was up, Ontario W. C. T. U. decided to let us keep our married women if they wanted to stay, so we will hope earnestly for a change of heart on Mr. Ramsay's part.

There are now twelve "Y" Unions in Ontario and four "Y" committees. Affiliation fees to the amount of \$102.75 are paid by the "Y's."