

sincere thanks to the numerous friends who have given liberal support to and taken a warm interest in the Boys' Home.

The number of boys in the Home on the 31st December, 1897, was 111. Forty-six were admitted during the year, making a total of 157. Of these eleven were sent to places in the country, 45 were removed by parents and friends, and one died. The managers regret to report this death; little Charlie, a bright boy of five; his mother, a poor deserted wife, had been obliged to part with him for three months; leaving him with a friend, in another town. After trying vainly to get the husband's relatives to assist her to provide for the boy, she met him at the train, and brought him direct to the Home. With an affectionate good-bye she left him, saying she would come to see him next week. Six days later he was taken suddenly ill, with what proved to be a malignant form of scarlet fever; sent to the Isolation, where he received the kindest care and attention, but became rapidly worse, and, to the regret of all, died next day. The poor young mother never saw him again. The disease must have been in his system when admitted.

The general health of the boys throughout the year has been very good. The mild form of scarlet fever which appeared in October of the previous year, causing the matron and her assistants a long weary period of quarantine, disappeared, leaving no ill effects of any kind. And the managers would again express their best thanks to Dr. Sheard, Medical Health Officer, for his kind and valuable assistance and advice, which enabled the matron and her assistants to feel safe, in the knowledge that the home had been thoroughly disinfected. Although the disease was very prevalent in the City in early summer, no new cases appeared.

The managers refer to the Medical Officer's report for full particulars, and once more express their deep sense of