

MONTHLY NOTES

HOSPITAL WORK BY THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREWS

The ultimate object of the Brotherhood of St. Andrews is the spread of Christ's kingdom among young men. This has naturally led to various ways and means of reaching them, and one of the most important is the Hospital. In no place is there a larger field for work nor one that is more accessible for reaching your man; because in the general visiting done by Brotherhood men there is always the chance of finding no one at home or if at home, perhaps it is inconvenient to see them, whereas, at the Hospital, they are sure to be at home and what is more cannot get out of an interview (except by feigning sleep) no matter how much they wish it. But as a general rule this sort of a wish is not met with for patients are only too glad to have some one to talk to them, even if it is only to vary the monotony and while talk of a general character is indulged in at first, by degrees it is worked around to a more solid basis and effort is made to get to really know the man.

The Hospitals in Toronto are very well looked after, representatives from the different Chapters visiting the General, Western, Grace, St. Michael's and the Convalescent Home, the first and last being the ones that men from St. Alban's Chapter more particularly visit.

At the General Hospital the visiting is done on Sunday mornings. Soon after 9.30 the Brotherhood men put in an appearance and see that everything in the way of hymn books, psalm books, leaflets and organ are in place and at 9.45 the chaplain commences a shortened form of morning service which is heartily joined in by all present. Especially do the patients enjoy the singing of the hymns and it would do the heart of any church member good to hear some of those cracked voices raised in the glorifying and praising of God and finding the notes too high suddenly quaver and stop but still keep the lips moving and frame the words until the end of the verse.

A short sermon, followed by another hymn and prayer bring the service to a close which lasts altogether from three quarters of an hour to an hour after which the Chaplain gives out the lists of Church members to be called upon.

All sorts and conditions are met with, the man who is glad to see you, and the one who would rather be left alone, the one who is talkative and the one whom it is hard to get even yes or no from, at the same time it is usually the most difficult ones at first that turn out the best in the end.

It is very hard indeed to know whether good results always follow, in fact all that Brotherhood men can do in all their work is to persevere and leave the results to a Higher Power.

One very important part of the work in the Hospital which is eagerly looked forward to by the patients is the distribution of books from Sunday to Sunday. Thanks to the generosity of the Church people and members of the Brotherhood, the St. Andrews library

is a very creditable one, the bound books comprise works by such authors as Sir Walter Scott (of which there is a complete set) Rudyard Kipling, Conan Doyle, J. M. Barrie, Robert Louis Stevenson, Charles Kingsley and Bishops Hall and Brooks, from which half a dozen to sixteen are given out each Sunday. For those who cannot settle their minds to any lengthy reading, there is always an assortment of magazines on hand, those which are well illustrated such as the Strand and Munseys being the favorites. Some people seem to think that church papers, tracts and the like are the only suitable literature for the hospital, no such idea could be more erroneous as the pile in our cupboard could easily testify. Patients need something bright and entertaining to make them forget for a time if they can the sorrows and misery among them.

Such is the work carried on by the band of young men who go Sunday after Sunday trying to bring comfort and solace to those who are sick, trying at a time when the man is most susceptible to bring his thoughts nearer to God and Jesus Christ.

CHAS. H. CLARK

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC

Our young folks of all sizes, who are to be the churchmen and churchwomen of the future, had their annual excursion last month, and spent a very enjoyable day at Victoria and Munro Parks. The early morning was showery and it almost seemed as if there would be no picnic, but before ten o'clock the sun showed its smiling face and effectually dispelled all fears as to wet weather; so that by half past ten, (the time of starting) everything looked bright and promising. In due time they arrived at Victoria Park, a happy expectant crowd ready to make the most of their opportunities for pleasure and recreation. The children now dispersed themselves over the grounds in search of novelties and amusements, while the teachers and some others busied themselves in preparing for the onslaught that they knew would shortly be made upon the eatables, etc. regarded as so essential a feature in affairs of this kind.

After the good things had been effectually disposed of, everybody devoted themselves to the merry-go-rounds, swings, donkeys and other such *intellectual* delights and then adjourned to Munro Park to feast their eyes with the sleight of hand tricks and juggling performances there exposed to view. When we add to this short recital of the day's doings that a number of games were arranged for the benefit of the scholars and prizes given for the leaders in each event, it will be well understood that this picnic will be regarded as a red-letter day by the children great and small of St. Albans. We cannot close without referring to the pleasure with which both teachers and scholars regarded the presence of their esteemed Bishop, who on the eve of his departure for England, spent some of his limited time in demonstrating his affectionate solicitude for their welfare and enjoyment.