



CHRISTMAS has come and gone, and in another part of our pages there are accounts given of how our little ones enjoyed themselves on that day at Hazel Brae, and also in Muskoka.

We would like to acknowledge gratefully the gifts of different kind friends both at Peterborough and elsewhere, who helped to make this season a happy one for our children. Among Peterborough friends are Mrs. Haultain, Mrs. Templeton Brown, Miss Emma Hall, Miss Moore, Mrs. V. Best, Mr. Dobbin, Mr. Mason, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. C. N. Brown, Mr. L. Smith, Mr. Stock, Mr. H. Long, Mr. Powell and Mr. Edgecombe. The children had also a kind present of scrap-books from St. Paul's Junior Endeavour Society.

Then from Toronto Mrs. Vigeon bestowed a magnificent supply of candies, which have an unflinching charm for young palates, and from Listowel Miss Quinn gave a number of dressed dolls, also one of our girls, Amelia Pritchard, sent a gift of one dollar for Christmas at the "Home."

Christmas brought anxiety, too, for our dear invalid, Alice Rogers, who took a very weak turn about that time, although her friends will be glad to hear that she has quite revived again now.

From the Village Home come two interesting items in the way of news. First of all, Miss Woodgate, after a period of rest at her home, has undertaken the superintendence of Mossford Lodge, a now much enlarged house at Ilford, for we hear it has at present no less than sixty rooms. We are sure her friends at the Village Home are very glad to welcome her back in their midst again.

And then Miss Fargie after so many years faithfully holding her post as head of the school, has at last had to leave on account of illness in her family.

We received a photo of Alice Rowland, a copy of which appeared in the January number. As the sender of the photograph wished to have it returned, and we have forgotten who it was, we should be glad to be reminded.

Bank books have been speeding their way back to the Home of late, and again we have to put in a request as to care about the postage. These books do not travel by book-post, but are charged for by letter rate, that is, *three cents per ounce*. If this is borne in mind it will save a good deal of trouble, as it is, they are now frequently charged for on delivery.

We should be glad if more girls having anything to write about which would be of interest to the others, would send us their communications. It might be a great help in getting up our monthly journal, and as there is a very large correspondence at the Home, this division of labour would be acceptable.

At Hazel Brae, we still have some little girls under fourteen ready for placing out, while we have sent out a number of this age who are steadily keeping their places

A FRIENDLY LETTER FROM MISS QUINN.

"My chief motive in writing to-night is to tell you about Lizzie P—, and the good impression she made on those who met her. Poor child! She didn't want to go further, and cried at the station when I left her. I was wishing she could stay longer and I could have 'shown her off' a bit! As it was, several of our friends saw her and were delighted, and so interested. One gentleman . . . was at the station, and said he came on the train from Stratford with her, and had noticed specially her modest behaviour. His sister-in-law was going to Warton, so I placed Lizzie under her care and was so glad of this. Everyone hoped she was going to a good home, but I assured them there wasn't much danger of her not. We had a friend visiting us, a teacher near London, she was so taken with Lizzie—this is what she writes back: 'That poor little Barnardo bairn! A week ago I had not seen her and now she has left me with a heart-ache that I won't soon get rid of, but the short experience has left me with an interest in those . . . children that I hope will last my life-time.'

brings in the two interesting stories of Gideon and Samson, and also of that noble woman Deborah.

There is an instructive lesson for us in the sad story of how, *after the death of Joshua* and the elders who outlived him, the Israelites forsook the God of their fathers, and served other gods. See ch. ii:12. How little the human heart has changed since those days! Do we not all know the danger there is of getting careless, when removed from under some good influence which we enjoyed formerly? We should therefore value Christian friends and good influences, and not willingly remove ourselves from them just for worldly advantages, and if Providence takes us away, we should "watch and pray" lest we enter into temptation.

From the study of Gideon and his pitchers we learn how God can take up and use unlikely instruments to work out His will. Indeed Gideon himself is a proof of this, for he says in chap. i:15, "I am the least in my father's house." His humility, however, is very beautiful, and made him an apt instrument in God's



CAIRNS HOUSE.

"It just proves what I have often said that people would be more interested in these children if they only knew them."
"MAMIE QUINN."

To many girls the name of Miss Quinn, the writer of a letter from which we give the above extract, is very familiar, as for years she worked with us at the Home. We received these pleasant words from her lately after she and her mother had kindly given hospitality for the night to one of our girls, who could not easily make the journey in one day.

In these days when the girls cannot shut their ears to the criticisms which are to be heard in the outside world, it is good to have this testimony from a Canadian home on the debated subject, which might be summed up in the words "Come and see." (See John 1:46.)

On this page of "Our Girls" will be noticed a picture of Cairns House, a familiar object to many from the Village Home. It will be remembered that this picture was to have been given some months ago, but went astray, so Annie Addison has kindly sent us hers.

SCRIPTURE UNION CORNER.

This month gives us readings from the Book of Judges. It tells how, after the death of Joshua, the people were under judges, and

hand, and as for weakness, did not the apostle Paul, counting on Christ's strength, say, "When I am weak, then am I strong"? Here then is a lesson to give courage to any weak ones.

There are also useful precepts from Colossians, and good words from the Psalms in this month's daily readings, which we hope will be of profit.

SCRIPTURE UNION QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

1. Give chapter and verse in the New Testament where mention is made of four characters mentioned in the Readings in Judges.
2. Give chapter and verse in Colossians containing rule of life for those who are in service.
3. How do we know that the writer of Colossians was in prison at the time he wrote the epistle?
4. What kind of a character denies the existence of God? (See answer in Daily Readings from the Psalms.)

ILFORD AND STEPNEY.

We are giving cuttings from the *Young Helpers' Monthly Magazine*, which we think will be of interest to our readers.

The first one about the Village Home is from a letter signed "Grandfather." Can any one guess who he is?

As for the second about the work-shops at Stepney, we fear we may be trespassing a little on the boys' domain, and then—and then—