

SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

OUR formal report, ladies and gentlemen, of the Conference of Associated City Charities, is necessarily succinct and dry, dealing with nothing about which there can be any difference of opinion. I hope, as your President, I shall not be doing what is unacceptable at the close of our session if, in a less formal way, I recall to your minds some of the questions arising out of our work or connected with it, which have engaged your attention in the course of our meetings.

NECESSITY OF A PUBLIC RELIEF OFFICER.

In the department of charity, as in all other departments of municipal life and administration, questions are raised by the marvellous growth of Toronto. What sufficed for a population of twenty, or even of fifty, thousand will not suffice for a population of one hundred and eighty thousand, with a prospect of further increase. These cities of the New World have traversed in half a century the distance in the race of progress which it has taken the cities of the Old World ten centuries to traverse; young in years they are old in magnitude, and the liabilities and cares of maturity have already fully come upon them. When I first settled in Toronto, a little more than twenty years ago, cows wandered in the streets of my quarter, where land is now selling at a high price per foot. The need of a more regular and skilled administration is felt in the department of