

Toronto Topics

JUST AROUND Humber again, and once more we have the pleasure of greeting all our dear girls and wishing them each and all a very happy and prosperous New Year. What will it bring to us all? To some chiefly good things, brightness and joy; to others perhaps sorrow and sickness; but all must be good for us and best, because a wise and loving Father sends it. There is very much to be thankful for in looking back over the year's events. Some who, this time last year, seemed inclined to be restless have settled down, winning better reputations; some who had such white faces and seemed dispirited and unfit to battle through the winter's work are now looking strong and well, and always full of spirits. We still have one or two invalids, unfortunately. Isabel Lee and Lizzie Kerr have been obliged to give up entirely for a time, but we hope to have the latter back with us again and able to take her old place; but Isabel we expect to lose altogether, as she is contemplating a trip to the Old Country, which we hope will do her good and make a healthy woman of her after all. Gertrude Woods has had quite a sharp attack of pneumonia, and still looks white and weak, as is natural after an illness like that. Annie Prior is having her turn just now, and, we are sorry to say, was prevented by illness from being present at our Christmas party.

Talking of parties, we must not forget to speak of the gathering we had the Sunday Miss Code came to see us. All who could possibly manage it came to meet her, and everyone was glad to see her again and hear the familiar voice. She gave us, too, such a nice little talk about telling the Lord Jesus when we are in difficulties and inviting Him as a guest in all our pleasures.

Our family still grows. We have Florence Earl with us from Weston. Emily Cornage, who promises to do very well in the city and has already won a very good recommendation, came to us from Carlton West, and we hope

she will settle down happily with us. May Wood, who came to us from the States on the death of her husband after a few short but very happy months of married life. Katie Trow, from Muskoka, who is a fine, sturdy looking damsel of whom we have great hopes, as she brings a first-class character with her. Kathleen Livingstone, who has been away to visit her sister and has now returned to take a place here, where we hope she will prosper and like the city life. Rose Brooks was with us for the first time at the children's gathering on the Tuesday after Christmas Day, so we don't know much about her as yet, but are glad to welcome her among us, and hope that she will do well and that her time in the city may be a benefit both to her and to us. Emma Barnfather also made our acquaintance at the children's party, though we found that she had been in the city for some months. Rose Webb came to the city last July, and made her home with Mrs. Howes, who is very good to her and treats her just as if she were her own little girl. Rosie is growing, and looks so happy and bright and well cared for that there was no need to make any enquiries. Beatrice Purrett came to us this fall from Chatham, where she had been in the one place for a great many years, and has settled down in a place where she is very much liked and appreciated, and we look upon her as quite an acquisition to our number.

Jessie Speare is gone as little nurse to the small daughter of a lady in Parkdale, who was particularly kind to one of the older girls, and, so far, Jessie seems very happy and in a fair way to do nicely and get on.

Our party, on December 26th, has already become a thing of the past, and, as far as we can judge, it was quite a success. Although the numbers were not quite so large as last year, those who were here seemed thoroughly to enjoy themselves, and the musical programme was certainly an improvement on that of last year. We had recitations from Ethel Humble, Mary Cobb,