

is within the grasp of the helping hand of mercy and encouragement ; she inhales a purer atmosphere, and the moral waste may be repaired or restored.

On the 1st of January, 1880, there were 40 inmates under our care, including these, there have been 75 admissions, 8 re-admissions, making the total number 115. All these have had the benefit of shelter, protection and encouragement during the year, for a shorter or longer period. Thirty-six left of their own accord, 4 were dismissed, 1 to the Infants' Home, 1 to her friends, 2 to the Insane Asylum, 17 to service ; of these a good many have given satisfaction ; *three* were sent to the General Hospital, and *four* to the Burnside. There has always been difficulty in regard to receiving this latter class. Exceptional cases have been admitted, showing that the Board have exercised judgment, discrimination and kindness ; but this Institution was not intended for, neither is it adapted to, persons in such circumstances, who come to the *Home*, not for *reform*, but for *convenience* ; their admission exerts an unfavorable influence on those who are more directly the objects of the charity. This subject, however, is well worthy of continued consideration, and should not be laid aside or smothered. Let the wise Christian philanthropist look at it and suggest some suitable provision. Might the difficulty not be met by relaxing considerably the present regulations of the Burnside Institution, so as to give earlier admission to the applicants ? There are remaining in the Home 43. The greater number of the women have found their way from the city ; *two* foreigners are on our list ; others may be ranked as wanderers from some of the Provincial towns or neighborhood. The ages run from 13 to 63. Twenty-four above 40 ; twenty-four between 20 and 30. Such is the calendar of wasted lives ! We cannot appeal to public sympathy or benevolence, on the ground of merit or innocence, or providential dealings, or mental weakness, or bodily infirmity or sickness ! Alas, no ! *Nothing* in the way of commendation ! On the very contrary, we have to do with ignorance, and sin and vice and depravity, in many forms, more or less modified, and in taking hold of such unfortunate cases we have to view the work as the Saviour views it, with an eye of compassion, and, like Him, stretch down our hand to the lowest depth ; and, when the first step is taken upward, let us beware of "breaking the bruised reed, or quenching the smoking flax ;" for in lifting up, how much care and caution and guardianship are needed ! There is such a tendency to slip down again, to return to old familiar evil ways, even despite of all their bitter consequences ; and here, mark the benefit and necessity of having an Asylum provided, to which the poor wanderer may be transferred and welcomed, where, in a new atmosphere, under the rule of kindness, and patience and prayer, she may become acclimatized to what is good, and useful and healthful. This is the work of time, and hence our efforts to