

REPORT OF JAIL SUNDAY SCHOOL, HOSPITAL AND CORRIDOR WORK.

MEN'S DEPARTMENT.

Our work in the Jail has been gradually changing. The circumstances of the prisoners, due to their better classification, and the introduction of labour for the able-bodied men amongst them, have been greatly improved, and has been the means of considerably reducing their number. Our opportunities for doing good have also improved, and especially among first offenders, who are now completely isolated from older criminals. Special personal work has been done during the week amongst these by Mr. Arnold and myself, which we believe has been blessed of God, and very few of those dealt with have come back, charged with a second offence. As first offenders are thus completely isolated, the providing of a small library at once is absolutely necessary.

But there are serious abuses that ought to be remedied. We have constantly in our Jail from 20 to 30 men and women, some of whom have been there for many years, who are guilty of no offence, save that they are poor and unable to provide for themselves. For such, an Industrial Home ought to be established, directly under the control of the Municipality.

Another abuse, is the awful farce of sending drunkards to jail on short terms, or even sending them there at all, where there is no possibility of aiding them to overcome the terrible power of their appetite for strong drink. There are of this class a number of men and women who have, for the last 10 or 12 years, been almost constant inmates of our Jail, and when discharged, in a few hours or in a few days at most, they go through the old round and come back to us again, so that the Jail seems really to be their home. These unfortunates should be put under special treatment, and for such, a Home for Inebriates is an absolute necessity. They are not