

dren, depending for support upon the voluntary offerings of the Christian public; and the wisdom of the step is seen in that in two years one hundred and ten children have been placed in Christian homes and are now happy and doing well."

The object of the work is stated as follows: The helping of orphan and needy children in any part of Canada by (1) accepting of the legal guardianship of the same; (2) the taking of them from properly constituted guardians for the placing of them in Christian homes, either for adoption or service; and (3) the supplying of Canadian families, who desire children for adoption or otherwise, with such Canadian children as are in need of homes and friends.

It must not be imagined that the work is accomplished simply by taking the child from its



REV. C. W. WATCH AND MRS. WATCH

unfortunate surroundings and placing it in the first home that offers. The child culture must be thought of, and so it is kept for a time in a shelter for training, and the assurance is given it of having friends; a good outfit of clothing is provided; the child goes out with its own new valise, and no matter how young the child is it carries out its own Bible, a temperance pledge, and some books or toys, and even a picture of itself is not forgotten. Then the home to which it goes is well selected; no person is ever asked to take a child, as the applications are many times more than the number of children to be provided for. The home being satisfactory, the child is indentured, either as a pure adoption case or engaged for service, Mr. Watch remaining the legal guardian, with the proviso in each indenture that the little one can be returned to him at any time, and will be removed if the home becomes unsatisfactory. Occasional visits are made by Christian workers, and in every possible way the child's interests are protected.

Thus far one hundred and twenty children have been received, and one hundred and ten of these are well placed, and this has all been done as a labor of love by an earnest band of voluntary helpers resident in Brighton and Toronto. As might be expected, there is need just now of permanent workers, and also of a comfortably furnished and equipped Shelter.

Should the return of the child be necessary—and often this is not its own fault—another short term of training is given it before it is again placed. It is creditable to both the children and their homes that of all those placed only twenty have ever been returned or removed, and only two runaway cases have been reported, and these were over sixteen years of age. Only four deaths have occurred among the whole number, and, considering the state of many of them at the time they were transferred to the Work, this is certainly most satisfactory. The breadth of the undertaking is seen in the readiness to assist a needy child in any part of Canada, and the willingness to send one into any Province, if the proper guarantees are given for its safety and protection.

The question of support is naturally an interesting one, and to be told that so far no personal appeal has been made for funds, and yet during 1897 \$1316.30 were sent to Mr. Watch to support the work, evidences the interest already awakened in this method of saving the little ones. The voluntary character of the undertaking is evident in every particular: the children are sent voluntarily for help, the homes for them open without appeal, and the funds are given as freewill offerings. The average cost, so far, of saving a child by this method has been \$25.00. This is a lower average than can be found in any similar institution, and the hope is that it will not go much above this, even when paid helpers have to be engaged.

There is no more gratifying part of the annual report just sent out than the clippings from letters received from the children and their foster-parents and to know that only two or three of the constantly increasing family are causing any anxiety; and that many of the older ones are converted to God is most encouraging. The last letter received by Mr. Watch tells of one of his wards being the chairman of the Floral Committee of an Epworth League of Christian Endeavor.

The officers of the work are: Superintendent, Rev. C. W. Watch, Brighton, Ont.; treasurer, R. Hewitt; physician, Dr. Dean; solicitor, J. W. Gordon; secretary, A. E. B. Watch; representing the work in Toronto, Miss Sanderson, The Haven, 320 Seaton st.; representing the work in the Northwest, Mrs. W. A. Vrooman, Calgary.



A SOLDIER can never fight successfully in another man's armor.

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To be content would be to stop our lives,  
And bid the world stand still: no effort then  
Would we essay.