

SHELTER REPORT.

In submitting our second annual report of the Shelter work we are sorry to have to report a slight falling off in the number of girls received into the Shelter, there being 113 as against 130 of last year. This falling off in numbers may be accounted for somewhat, in the distracting influences which have been at work. In December last the Shelter was removed to the top flat of our Headquarters building, and while much larger, brighter and in every way adapted for the work, especially with regard to yard room, at the same time it has the disadvantage of being at the top of the house, and not so easy for the girls to find. Then in January our tried and trusted housekeeper, Mrs. Meredy, who had always made the house so pleasant and home-like, was taken seriously ill. A nurse was provided for her and everything done to aid her recovery, which was only partial, and after several months trying to get well enough to resume her duties, she gave up and was taken to Grace Hospital. Mrs. Farrar, who took her place, is giving good satisfaction. In July, Miss McIntyre resigned her position as Matron of the Shelter. Miss Lee, who followed her, a most estimable lady in every respect, and particularly fitted for the work, felt obliged to resign the position in six weeks time through failing health and a desire to reach her native land (England) before the winter set in. All these changes have had an adverse effect on the work, still we believe He who over-rules all things will bring blessing out of what may seem to us only disaster.

A large proportion of these girls are now in domestic service doing well, from whom we hear encouraging reports from time to time. Some have been helped out of difficult positions, and others returned to their friends who were glad to hear of them.

The opening of the new Shelter was a decided success, Mayor Fleming presided. Mrs. Rutherford gave an interesting outline of the work, music was contributed by several young ladies and gentlemen, refreshments were handed around, and best of all a number of substantial donations subscribed.

In February the annual "high Tea" for Headquarters was held, and a nice sum realized. In May the Mite Boxes donated by Mrs. Fletcher for the Shelter were opened with text reading and afternoon Tea. Each lady was asked to bring with her Mite Box a plant or shrub for the garden. That the response was generous, the garden itself will testify by its beautiful appearance all summer. Deer Park sent a number of bulbs and shrubs.

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