

Village Foster-homes. WHILE the foregoing applies chiefly to the general training in the Institutions, it must be remembered that a large percentage of our Canadian immigrants have, previous to their leaving England, been boarded-out in English villages in carefully chosen homes chiefly amongst the agricultural labouring class. The children who have been brought up in these country households have not, perhaps, the alertness and readiness of wit of those who have remained in the large Industrial Homes, and who have had to hold their own among numbers of other children and the rough-and-tumble of institutional life; but what they lack in smartness they have generally gained, in the process of character moulding, by the escape from the unelevating associations inseparable from even the most guarded lives in large cities and amongst large assemblages of young people of any class. Whether, however, the boys and girls who pass through Dr. Barnardo's hands are boarded-out in country homes or kept under training in the central Institutions, their lives have been surrounded with kindly, happy, Christian influences, and they have been well nourished, both in mind and body, well taught and well cared for.

Testifying that we have Seen. It needs no expert to recognize that children reared under such conditions, even though they have been deprived of parents and parental care and affection, are in no sense handicapped in the race of life. On the contrary, they have had many advantages in the well-ordered regularity of their lives and the constant vigilance with which they are watched over, as compared with the children of those in higher social position, who have perhaps been over-indulged, left to the care of inexperienced or unreliable people, and who have not, as our boys and girls, borne the yoke in

their youth. We have no abstruse theories to propound in favour of, or opposition to, the so-called laws of heredity, but we deal with facts, and we speak of what comes under our personal knowledge and daily observation when we say that Canada need have no misgivings as to the type of young colonists that Dr. Barnardo is giving her. They are no weaklings or degenerates, but all over the country we see our boys and girls holding their own with other children of their age, and often children much older than themselves, in school, at games and at work. Amongst the country schools our youngsters are found taking good places in class and equal to any in quickness and application. We have scores and hundreds of boys who can turn out as good a piece of ploughing, can run any kind of machinery, can tend as well a bunch of cattle as any farmer or farmer's son, and girls who in household duties and household management need take a back seat to no one, and there are not a few of our "old" girls who as married women are proving themselves as good wives and good mothers, and mothers of as fine children, as any country or community need wish.

A Safety Valve. CERTAINLY there are, and always will be, exceptions to the rule —boys and girls who,

despite every care in selection and every desire and every precaution to send only the strong and the fit, are found, after their arrival, to develop undesirable tendencies or constitutional defects; but where there is a break down in health, a derangement of mind or lapse into crime, the charge is not thrown on the country. On the contrary, Dr. Barnardo assumes the full burden of his failures, and the most formidable and costly responsibility resting upon anyone who has to do with a boy or girl who is sick, incapable or unsatisfactory is to return him or her to the nearest branch of the Institutions, there to be received and