

THE "YOUNG HELPERS' LEAGUE."

(Continued from 2nd page of cover.)

for many years has taken a most active interest in the work of the Homes.

How well-founded was the belief of Dr. Barnardo and his coadjutors in the sympathy of the young people, not only of London, not only of England, but of far-off lands, will be seen from the following paragraphs taken from the article by Mrs. Eva Travers Evered Poole :

"Born of, and cradled in, Prayer, our baby union (Y.H.L.) rapidly grew, gathering numbers, until to-day, after only six weeks, we number very nearly 6 000! Surely this rapid and harmonious response made by young hearts reached by our appeals is the best proof that the right chord has been struck by a powerful master hand!

"Helpers have offered themselves from France, Germany, Austria, Russia, Turkey, Italy, India, South Africa, Australia, Queensland, and, of course, all over the United Kingdom, and are already enrolled as 'Companions' of our League, engaged in their happy work of love."

Continuing in answer to the question "Why was it started?" the writer says: "Because we look into the future. We know the bright-faced boys and girls of to-day are the busy men and women of the years to come. We need a training-school for the young recruits, who by-and-by will fill up the ranks of our present supporters. Death thins the ranks, but there must be no vacancies in the army of the Lord. We must have reserve forces ready to spring forward as our soldiers fall! Ten years hence we joy to think that there will be thousands of young men and women educated by our League to true, practical interest in our waif work and its surroundings. . . ."

If any of our readers have availed themselves of the opportunity of joining one or more of the many national, fraternal, and benevolent associations with which this country abounds (and we would here say to those who have, that they have acted wisely), they will naturally know something of the procedure generally adopted for carrying on the business of a Lodge, a Court, or a Habitation; and they will readily understand the increased interest which the members take in the conduct of such business when they are given a fair measure of control over the affairs of their own Lodge, or their collective entity, by whatever term expressed.

This principle of subdivision, according to local and numerical exigencies, with a separate organization and separate officers, in whom is vested the control of the business of each such organization, was adopted at the outset in the Young Helpers League, and has been productive of most satisfactory results. "The members, or 'Companions,' consisted originally of boys and girls under 18 years of age; but it has been since extended so as to include a senior branch for those who are over 18 years of age. The subscription is one shilling per annum for juniors, and two shillings and sixpence for seniors. The members of the League are, as far as possible, grouped locally into 'Habitations,' each of these having its own President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and its own regular meetings for the transaction of local business; and each Habitation, moreover, when large enough, is subdivided into Lodges, which, likewise, possess an organization of their own."

It is needless to remind our boys that the work of Dr. Barnardo's Institutions is manifold. The key-note, of course, is "Help to the children," but this partakes

of many phases. There is the help to those who, destitute of means and friends able to help, only require temporary assistance to enable them to start on life's journey with every prospect of quickly placing themselves in a position of honourable independence. The majority of our boys in Canada are from this class, and the useful, industrious, contented lives are leading in this country more than justify the timely help they received a few years back.

There is the help, very, very needful help, to those who are not only destitute of means and friends, but who, if not removed "while yet there is time" from their surroundings, will be engulfed for the rest of their lives in a vortex of sin and misery.

There is the help, even more needful, if we can draw comparison in such matters, to those poor little folks who, in addition to being destitute; in addition, it may be, to evil surroundings, are, and ever will be, physically incapacitated by disease or deformity from doing anything other than partake of whatsoever the hand of charity or, let us say, humanity, shall bestow upon them.

There is help from Dr. Barnardo's Institutions to each and every class of childhood in distress; but the Young Helpers' League has for its particular object "not merely to render general support and sympathy to the whole work, but more especially to undertake to defray the entire cost of those very pitiable children who, in addition to being destitute, are also suffering from some physical malady; such children, for example, as are sick, deaf and dumb, crippled, blind, and diseased; in short, those incurable little waifs and strays who, in addition to their poverty, are heavily handicapped by bodily suffering or deformities."

"Her Majesty's Hospital in Stepney Causeway, which contains 74 cots, is especially the subject of tender sympathy and active effort on the part of the League. An endeavour has been made to induce each Habitation to guarantee the annual cost (amounting to £30) of at least one cot in this hospital, and it is a pleasure to state that all these cots are now taken up, and the League is also proceeding to support cots at the Infirmary of the Girls' Village Home, at Babies' Castle, and at the Jones Memorial Home for Incurables, Birkdale. Each cot so assigned to the League is called after the name of the Habitation which guarantees its annual upkeep."

At the time the last annual report of the Director and Founder was compiled (Dec. 31st, 1894), 217 Habitations and 156 Lodges had been established, many of these being in active operation far beyond the four seas, and indeed over the whole civilised world. The register of Companions at that date, for example, includes names of young people from Lagos, Cape Hayti, Brazil, Barbadoes, China, Jamaica, Wanganui (N.Z.), Demerara, Tasmania, Johannesburg, Algiers, and Java. The League has its headquarters of course at 18 Stepney Causeway, where is also the office of its General Secretary, Miss Rachel Norton.

Twenty thousand seven hundred and forty-six Companions had in all joined the membership of the League since its inception; 10,309 JUNIOR COMPANIONS who had paid up their annual subscriptions were on the books at the close of 1894. The following figures represent the annual sums raised up to that date by these Companions of the League in support of its objects since the organization was begun: in 1892, £2,186; in 1893, £4,197; and in 1894, £5,305. If the progress made in 1894 has been maintained in 1895, and we very confidently expect it has been exceeded, the sum raised during the latter year by the Y. H. L. will be very little under £7,000.

In this branch of Dr. Barnardo's work, as in others—the Canadian branch, for example—the need was felt of a journal devoted to its special interests, and the *Young Helpers' League Magazine* is the official organ of the League. At first the *Y. H. L. Magazine* was published quarterly, but with the advent of 1895 it developed into a monthly publication, and has proved to be a great help in the work of the League.

In his last report Dr. Barnardo says: "H.R.H. Princess Mary, Duchess of Teck, has been the President of the organization ever since the League was founded, and has always taken the greatest interest in its objects and methods. H.R.H. the Duchess of York is Vice-President of the League. No doubt the association of these two illustrious names with the scheme has had much to do with its success."

Of the grand success which, as we have shown, has attended the attempt to consolidate youthful effort in behalf of youthful unfortunates, we can only say it is but another instance which exemplifies how truly blessed of God, in all its branches is the work of 'child helping' which Dr. Barnardo inaugurated thirty years ago.

AN ACROSTIC.

Boys, bravely fight the battles of life;
ways be courteous and kind,
Ready to rescue some brother from strife,
Never dreaming of looking behind.
Aspire to be something that's noble and true
Reaching out, running on to the goal,
Deeming nothing unworthy God asks you to do—
Oh! the priceless worth of the soul.

Be humble, be honest, be noble, be true,
nly daring to do what is right;
Your days will be blest be they many or few,
hining brightly with Heavenly light.

G. H. WEBB.

Boys for Farm Help.

The managers of Dr. Barnardo's Homes invite applications from farmers throughout the country for the boys whom they are sending out periodically from the English homes. The young immigrants vary in age from ten to sixteen. They have all passed through a period of practical training, and have been carefully selected from amongst the 4,500 now under Dr. Barnardo's care in the English institutions. Of the 6,000 who have been placed out in the Dominion up to the present time less than one per cent. have been convicted of any species of crime. All communications should be addressed

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