

these words to join the Society, and thus show practically their sympathy with the work. We speak for suffering humanity as well as for the victims of cruelty among the lower animals.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

A Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, as a branch of the Royal S. P. C. A. of England, was first started in Halifax in the year 1864. The officers selected were: President, Hon. W. Young, Chief Justice; Vice-Presidents, Hon. J. W. Ritchie, and Col. Francklyn; Committee, the Bishop, Hon. C. Tupper, Provincial Secretary, and many others. From various reasons which I do not remember hearing, nothing more was accomplished than the mere organization of the society.

In the year 1876 Dr. A. H. Woodill had collected an amount of information on the subject of S. P. C. A. work from Mr. H. Bergh of New York, and in conjunction with several of our citizens a public meeting was called, and in December of that year (1876) this society was instituted, and I became first its Secretary, and then sec.-Agent. Since that time we have had a chequered existence against every kind of opposition. At first it was dangerous, and some people thought useless, to interfere with persons abusing animals. I was often asked "what is it of your business, is it not my own?" and other like questions. One of our daily papers at the initial stage of our existence prognosticated that "the S. P. C. A. would be like all other societies in Halifax—it would die out in three months." We are thankful to say that we did not die out, and if we exist until the 21st of next December, we shall be nine years old. We worked on single-handed in this Dominion of ours, steadily and determinedly, carrying out the objects of the Society, until we find to-day that we are in the proud position of not only benefitting our own provinces, but our influence has been felt in our sister provinces. We published a journal of our work for some time, but had to discontinue it on account of the want of funds. This was a pity, as it was doing much good as an educatory medium, and as it is desirable to educate old and young by circulating anti-cruelty literature—right convictions proceeding from true knowledge. To this end we distributed 30,000 (including journals) copies of suitable kinds of printed matter. Ladies offered prizes to school children for essays on kindness to animals. We started the FIRST "Bands of Mercy" on this continent, and established agencies and branches throughout the provinces. Those that we could not reach by education, we