

So far as ascertained Toronto City Council is the only one that has taken action with regard to jail reforms. The upper flat of the jail has been remodelled and set apart for young first offenders, many of whom are quite innocent of any criminality. They are confined in individual cells, and have no intercourse with each other. This is the English system and is highly recommended.

It has been thought by the Prisoners' Aid Association that local or branch associations would be very helpful to prison reform, and to this end a circular has just been sent to the county councils urging the formation of branch associations.

To secure the appointment of a Police Matron, wherever women and girls are detained, or where there is a police court, is a very important matter, and we would ask a full report of this line of work next year. Toronto has one, and should have two.

One new House of Refuge has been opened in Lambton County, making 13 in all. There is still great lack of provision in many of the counties for the proper care of the destitute poor. It is in the interests of the counties, as also of the province, that there should be a properly organized House of Refuge or Industrial Home in every county. They are necessary as hospitals, and we hope soon there will be one in each county.

There are 16 Superintendents in this Department, and 13 counties have sent reports. Evangelistic services have been held regularly and are much appreciated; many of the prisoners expressed a desire to lead a new life, and, in one instance, there were a few conversions; 14 signed the pledge; 20,000 pages of literature and 750 weekly papers have been distributed; three libraries, containing in all 250 volumes, have been provided for the prisoners, and, in two cases, an annual grant of \$10.00 is given by county councils for libraries.

BRUCE—Mrs. Keeling—Reports evangelistic services held regularly, which were much appreciated; a number of aged and infirm were forced to remain in the jail for want of a House of Refuge.

BRANT—Mrs. Gillespie, Superintendent—Reports evangelistic services held every Sunday; meetings were very encouraging and the prisoners seemed eager for the Gospel; literature and flowers have also been distributed at the House of Industry; sermons have been preached each Sabbath by the different ministers of the town; the old people enjoy the services very much.