

Toronto Topics

CHRISTMAS has come with all its brightness and glad remembrances, and first of all I want to wish my girls, one and all, a very happy Christmas, and for the New Year that is opening before us all the best blessings our Heavenly Father can send them. Looking back over the past year, there is much one feels sorry about—mistakes made and failure, where perhaps we had looked for such great things—while on the other hand there have been so many things to make one glad and thankful. Girls who have worked steadily and bravely in spite of illness or difficulties that only they themselves really knew of, are among those of whom we are really proud and for whom we feel thankful. Our changes have been remarkably few; in fact, the dearth of girls has been quite serious, while, on the other hand, the list of those who have kept their places for a year and over has grown quite large, and I am so proud of it, and hope that most of the one-year records will have grown to two by next Christmas. It seems so strange in these days the way girls move about, and unfortunately a few of our girls sometimes seem to catch the infection too. Why, years ago girls thought it a dreadful thing to have only one year's character from a place, and now they think nothing of only just one month.

Among those who are settling down and doing well we must mention Rose Steele. Her mistress, Mrs. S——, sent a special message: "I do want you to speak of Rosie in the next number of *URS AND DOWNS*, she is such a good girl, and a real help and comfort to me, and the children like her so much."

Margaret Milne is settling down and getting on very nicely, and she and the big dog are often to be seen about together.

Louisa MacL—— is also settling

her former mistress, Mrs. C——, and has the honour and responsibility of being left in charge during her mistress' absence in England.

Edith Dupuy, one of our newcomers, is gaining a good reputation. "Such a willing, bright girl," said her mistress, "so ready to help with the babies and do anything she can." Very good, Edith! that is the sure road to success and a good name.

Emma Dyson, another new-comer, is "a fine little girl, not so strong or capable as Lily, the former girl, but she has the makings of a fine little maid;" but then Emma is not so old as Lily, so there is yet time for her to come up equal to or even beyond her.

Gertrude Lingard is a plump, bonny little girl, in a good home, where she is treated with the greatest consideration and kindness, and we hope she will try with all her heart to overcome her chief failing, and be a really good little girl.

Alice Parsons has come to us from Paris, and we quite hope her city record will even surpass her country one, and that she will be one of our best girls.

Gladys Parsons, too, has joined us, and we hope she will soon feel at home among us, and help keep up our good reputation.

Rosina Bolt came to us from Newcastle, and we hope great things from her. With her bright face and ready, willing ways, she will win kindly feeling, and if her work matches her looks, she will have a fine record too.

Then we have Harriet Weston, Fizzie Drury, Eleanor Hall, Annie Robshawe, and Mary Hall to add to our list, and the little birds on the veranda, that we have heard about sometimes, have whispered something about Fizzie Black having returned to Canada, and, besides this, the mail has reached us of