

that he was obliged to inaugurate a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. This idea soon found its way to England, and while America has the honor of establishing the first S.P.C.C., England was not slow to follow, and similar societies were very soon formed in Liverpool and London.

To many, however, the most hopeful and important branch of the whole movement is the Bands of Mercy. The first Band of Mercy in America was formed in Massachusetts in 1882, and now has a membership of three hundred thousand. In both the United States and France, the Bands have been introduced into the schools and become part of the educational system of these countries.

St. John has the honor of being the first city in Canada in which the Bands of Mercy have been formed; and in one year after the inauguration of the movement here, the membership numbered twelve hundred. This branch of the movement is under the especial jurisdiction of the Ladies' Committee, as is the case in other places.

The great interest in this department arises from the conviction that the future is in the hands of the children, and the most enduring work is to be done among them. Through the literature and general work of the Bands much more is taught the children than the mere humane treatment of animals. The essays, annual gatherings, etc., stimulate the members to observe the habits of animals and acquaint themselves with the general facts of the animal kingdom. Their minds are also awakened to the sufferings of human beings and imbued with a desire to treat each other kindly.

F.

St. John, N. B.

In a recent address of Sir Lyon Playfair, President of the British Association, relating to questions of scientific and industrial training, and their effects on national life and national prosperity and progress, occurs the following passage which is full of most important truth. He says:

"In the school a boy should be aided to discover the class of knowledge that is best suited for his mental capacities, so that in the upper forms of the school and in the university, knowledge may be specialized, in order to cultivate the powers of the man to their fullest extent. Shakespeare's educational formula may not be altogether true, but it contains a broad basis of truth:

"No profit goes where is no pleasure ta'en;
In brief, sir, study what you most affect."

In this quotation the truth we have often urged in these pages is clearly expressed, viz.: that there should be adaptation of training to each pupil's needs and peculiarities in our schools.



SIR JOHN WILLIAM DAWSON.

[Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University.]

The subject of this brief sketch, although nearly sixty-eight years of age, is at present apparently in full prime vigor of life, to judge by the enormous amount of scientific and educational work which he continues to accomplish. He stands at the head, not only of Canadian, but of American scientists, and his accomplishments have won for him in the old world a place in the front ranks of the great men whose names will go down honored to the future ages. He was born at Pictou, Nova Scotia, 13th October, 1820, was educated in the Pictou Academy, and commenced his work in natural history when only twelve years old by making a collection of the fossils of the carboniferous rocks of the county. From the academy he went to the university of Edinburgh, where he paid special attention to natural history subjects and practical chemistry. In 1842, he studied the geology of Nova Scotia, in company with Sir Charles Lyell. In 1846, he completed his university course at Edinburgh. Returning home he continued his investigations, constantly publishing his observations and discoveries in scientific periodicals and in the transactions of learned societies. He was invited by the authorities of Dalhousie College to give a course of scientific lectures in Halifax which won for him the reputation of a popular lecturer. In 1850, he was appointed the first superintendent of education in Nova Scotia. He took a prominent part in the establishment of the Normal School in Nova Scotia,