

To our great satisfaction Mrs. White, the head nurse, whose loss we so regretted last year, has resumed her old position, proving a veritable right hand to our invaluable Lady Superintendent; of her exertions it is impossible to speak too highly. We trust she may find her task much lightened by the increased accommodation and conveniences of the new Home, and may she be spared to us for many years.

We cannot bring the report to a close without a word of our adult inmates, the mothers, who have, by God's good providence, been brought under the healthy influences of a Christian Home, at a time when, to most of them, the outlook of their lives was dark and well nigh hopeless. As a rule they have conducted themselves well, and shown deep love for their infants, and gratitude for the shelter which has enabled them to keep them for a few months. We are more and more persuaded that the mother's heart and conscience can best be worked upon through the medium of her helpless child.

A few or even many failures should not discourage us. The Master thought "one sheep" worth seeking for, and may this consideration strengthen our hands and increase the number of our helpers in the year upon which we have entered.

C. B. RIDOUT, *President.*

In moving the adoption of the report, Mr. Howland adverted to the success of the past year, and trusted it was an augury for still further usefulness during the year coming.

Mr. Graham seconded the motion, and the report was then adopted.

PHYSICIANS' REPORT.

Dr. Macdonald read the Physicians' Report for the year ending September 31st, 1881.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On looking back over the year which closed on Sept. 30th, 1881, we find that out of 111 infants admitted to the "Home" we have to record 25 deaths, or an average of 22.52 per cent. for the twelve months, which is about the same as we had to report for the year immediately preceding. To those who are intimate with the working of similar institutions we do not require to explain that this is a fair result. For the benefit of others, we may remark, that nine of those who died were received when in an incurable state; so that if we had power to admit healthy infants only our average death-rate would be reduced to 12.61 per cent., which is sufficiently low to satisfy the most sanguine of those who are dealing with this class of infants. We would suggest that on moving into our new building, none but healthy infants should be admitted to the Home proper. Such dying waifs as we are compelled to provide shelter for, should be sent to the infirmary, and a separate record kept in a special book, showing their state on admission. By so doing our death-rate would not be unduly augmented by those for whose care the Home has not been in any way responsible, and who are often presented suffering from neglect, exposure, and wilful maltreatment.

The monthly record of deaths gives for October, 2; November, 1; December, 0; January, 1; February, 0; March, 5; April, 2; May, 2; June, 4; July, 6; August, 1; September, 1; making up the total 25. Thus we see that the cold and changeable weather of March is only surpassed by the heat and closeness of July in its death-producing qualities for those who are already weakened by disease or constitutional debility.