

visitors speak of the cases they have visited during the month, and any lady is free to make any proposal she thinks proper. In any specially needy case a subscription of one shilling each is raised by the ladies, and the secretary forwards dinner tickets, and a bundle of the old linen, which is frequently supplemented by gifts of old clothing from some of the ladies; five shillings is also voted her by the secretary from the society's funds. The money is then put together, and given her in small sums by the lady or ladies visiting her, or part is laid out in nourishing things, and sent to her by the Bible nurse.

As soon as a poor woman is confined, she sends her card to the secretary's house, who immediately gives the bearer a grocery order for half-a-pound of tea, a pound of loaf sugar, a pound of moist, a quart of oatmeal, and a pound of soap. She also writes her an order for the chapel-keeper, who is paid an annual sum of thirty shillings to take charge of the boxes, requesting her to let the bearer have a box of linen for Mrs. So-and-so, sending the name and address of the person needing it; a New Testament is also given with the groceries. The boxholder then counts and unfolds the things to the woman coming for them, that there may be no excuse for deficiency or holes on their return, and she then has given unto her, in a nice strong, clean, printed box, with lock and key, and duly lettered, the following articles, a printed inventory of which is posted inside the lid:—A Bible, a counterpane, a pair of sheets, two pillow-cases, three chamber towels, two night-dresses, and two garments for the mother; and for the infant—two shirts, two bands, two dresses, two flannels, twelve squares, and a pretty hooded flannel square in which to wrap it. These things are to be returned that day month, nicely washed and ironed, when one shilling is given; but should they be detained much longer, without sufficient reason, or be much torn or burnt, the shilling is forfeited. The secretary also appoints one of ladies of the committee to visit her three times during the month, conversing, reading, and praying with her as opportunity shall offer, and sends one shilling to be given to her on the first visit. She is also attended by the Bible nurse, who washes her and the infant, prepares gruel or other things, attends to the wants of the family generally, and makes all comfortable, as well as reads and prays with the patient and others who may be present.

The boxes are thoroughly inspected by the secretary every three months, when everything getting worn, thin, or discoloured is removed, and replaced by new; those removed being reserved for destitute cases. As the president is rarely present at the meetings and never takes any part in the working of the society, a great deal devolves upon the secretary, who has the sole management and responsibility of everything, and

gives a great deal of time, attention, and work to it; and who during the last year wrote over three hundred letters for it. Our six boxes being found quite inadequate to some months' demands, a short time since they were supplemented by three others; and we hope in another year to make the number up to twelve. Appeals were made to many to aid in this increase of work, and one lady responded by kindly coming forward and offering to purchase materials and cut out all the articles required, and largely assist with the making; others gave money towards the new clothes; several assisted with the sewing; some little girls made the crotchet braid trimming; and a gentleman paid the carpenter's bill for the boxes; some pretty washing floral texts and pictures were also given for the counterpanes, so that some word of God may be ever before the eyes of the invalid, and lead her to think of Him. Forty-one cases were relieved last year at the expense of £25.

Only those thoroughly acquainted with its workings can have any idea of the great amount of good this society is quietly doing. Up to the time of their illness, the greater portion of these poor women could say, "No man cared for my soul"; but our great aim and earnest desire is never, if possible, to lose sight of them afterwards. By means of the lady visitors and Bible nurse, we try all we can to induce them to attend our Mothers' Meetings, join our Bazaar and other helpful societies, to attend some place of worship on the Sabbath, and to send their children to the Sabbath School. We believe that much good has been done to many, and we know that some have been brought from darkness to light; the softening influences of weakness of body and kindly ministrations, preparing the way for the sowing of the good seed at a time when, laid aside from the usual daily bustle of life, quiet thought can reign supreme, and words which at other times would quickly be forgotten, sink deep, and are remembered.

H. D. ISACKS.

#### WOOD'S "BIBLE ANIMALS."

We have received a copy of this beautiful work, and cannot speak too highly of its merits. It is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the sacred volume. The illustrations will render it very attractive to young and old. The binder has done his part of the work admirably. The publisher, W. Lyon, of Guelph, Ont., has an agent at present in this country, who will probably call upon most of our readers, who will do well to add this useful book to their library.

#### HOME MISSIONARY NEWS.

The Newfoundland Congregational Home Missionary Society has engaged the Rev. James Wilson as its fourth missionary. Mr. Wilson is a most earnest Christian, and a very promising preacher. In due course we will announce his field of labour.