

day at Home, Weekly Visitor, etc., if we wish them to be read—good tales which shall interest, amuse, and instruct, and lift them above the desire to read the dreadful *Police News*, and the other trashy or vicious publications with which at present they regale themselves. We could not well start with less than 100 volumes, and we think it desirable that these should be exchanged once a fortnight, and lent to them free of charge, the sick being regularly supplied by the Bible nurse in her usual visits. We think it would be the means of elevating them and making them happier thus rendering them better wives, better mothers, better neighbours, and less prone to spend their time in idle gossip. If many friends will put their shoulder to the wheel, and each do a little, it can easily be done. If each seat-holder will give us the price of one volume, or the volume itself, it will soon be accomplished, and then there will be the necessary cupboard to procure in which to keep them. The minor matters would soon be arranged were these major ones granted, and we heartily pray that before many weeks of this new year have elapsed this also will be fairly launched, and its influence felt in many homes ere the spring arrives; for while we tarry souls are perishing for lack of knowledge, and this may be one of the means used by God for the enlightenment of some poor wandering husband, wife, or child who, ere the year closes, may be called away. It is given but to few to do great things for Christ, but He never despiseth the 'day of small things' with any of us, and if in His might we can succeed in rescuing one poor soul from its downward course, we shall cause joy in heaven, and accomplish more than angels."

This appeal was responded to in a manner she had never anticipated. The cupboard was provided at once by one of the ladies connected with the mothers' meetings, and books and money to purchase them came flowing in freely, till, in place of the 100 volumes asked for, 200 were supplied; the cupboard was filled, and money in hand. Two young lady members of the church were appointed librarians, and the giver of the cupboard president and treasurer.

On Feb. 26 the library was formally opened at the mothers' meeting by its originator with a little address to the mothers present and a dedicatory prayer. The books are given out and exchanged at the mothers' meetings on Monday afternoons, the Bible nurse taking charge of those for the sick, or of those who cannot come, unless, as is frequently the case, those for the latter are brought by a neighbour or friend; for, as a rule, the poor are very kind and sympathising with each other, and ready to render a neighbourly turn at all times; and when such is not the case we have generally found the influence for good has gradually undermined and sapped all churlish feeling. We think it a pretty good test of kindness when on a hot or wet day a mother will come in, not only laden

with the inevitable baby and her own library, but with two or three thick volumes of the *Leisure Hour* or *Sunday at Home*, which she wishes to exchange or renew for her neighbours.

Forty-five names are entered on the book, and it speaks well for the poor women that the books most in request are the *Sunday at Home*, *Friendly Visitor*, *Tract Magazine*, *Christian Miscellany*, *Penny Magazine*, and periodicals of similar characters. The books are covered with strong brown paper, and have a printed list of rules inside, one of which provides for a fine in case of loss or damage; but they are so well taken care of and valued that as yet there has been no occasion for enforcing that special rule.

The effect of this library is being seen and felt in many of their homes; not only do the women themselves greatly value it, but in many cases the husbands appreciate it also, while the younger branches are delighted to read the numerous narratives of the periodicals. In several cases it has been the means of inducing them to take in other periodicals for themselves and their children, such as are provided by the branch of the Pure Literature Agency connected with the chapel. It is very gratifying to hear some of the mothers speak of their husbands staying at home to read the books in which they are interested, instead of spending the evening and money at a public-house; and it is a great inducement to the wives to brighten up the hearth and make all clean to try to keep them at home, by which not only are the husbands gainers in many ways, but the wives often in a pecuniary sense, as it not unfrequently happens that he gives her an extra coin towards the blanket, sheet, shawl, or counterpane for which she is subscribing, which coin would inevitably have been spent in drink but for these inducements to stay at home. The elder children, too, often read to mother of an evening while she attends to baby, or if that little charmer can be induced to sleep, while she tries to do a little of the much-needed sewing; and thus mother and children both profit, the latter often asking puzzling questions, which teaches mother to think that she may best know how to answer them.

I would advise every congregation to have such a library. Its silent influence for good in the homes of the poor is incalculable, and there are few families but would supply one or more suitable volumes for its establishment.

H. D. ISACKE.

Six will never leave thee so long as thou art in the body, and will never be got out till the vessel be broken, as it was with the vessel of earth defiled with leprosy, it behoved to be broken—no washing or scouring would do.

Know ye not, drooping saints, that there is a seed of enjoyment in all your disappointments, there is a sun under your cloud, your light shall shine out of obscurity, there is a harvest of joy in your tears, ye may have sown light in your darkness, faith under your doubtings, hope under your fears, and these in due time shall bring forth light.