

PLACING OUT CHILDREN.

The Society has two modes of indenture. One provides for yearly payments to the Society for the benefit of the boy or girl until he or she arrives at 18 years of age. The other for cases where the child is adopted and made one of the family. Our experience has shown that the latter is likely to prove the better plan. Fortunately the number of good homes offering for the Society's wards is so large, that the placing of them on the payment plan is seldom necessary. In this respect the Society's experience is found to correspond with that of many of the oldest societies on this continent engaged in like work, some of which have done away with the adopting out on payment system.

When a child has been sent to a foster home the case is reported to the Department of "Neglected and Dependent Children of Ontario." The case is there recorded, and thereafter the official visitor of the Department visits the foster home of the child—if placed in Ontario—at least once a year; though as a matter of fact she sometimes does so more than once. The visitor has been efficient and painstaking in her duties during the past year, and the reports which have come to us have been of the most satisfactory and encouraging kind. Where children are not old enough to have known of their connection with the Department or the Society, care is taken to make the visit in such a way that the child will only know the visitor as a friend making an ordinary call on its foster parents, for it is found that many foster parents desire to shield the little ones whom they have taken into their homes from a knowledge of the past.

While the Society has great cause for gratitude that so few of the foster homes have proved unsuitable for the children sent them, it has also cause calling for thankfulness that in several cases where children have proved undesirable, the foster parents have shown a large measure of longsuffering and kindness and have succeeded in overcoming the evil disposition in the children and gaining their affection.

But one case of unkindness to a foster child has come to the Society's notice during the year, and in that case the visitor for the Provincial Department went to the foster home and brought the girl to the city. She is now comfortable and happy in a better home. The Society had a boy in the same home and at once ordered that he be sent back. This was done and he also is now in another and better home.

The following table shows the children placed out by the Society:

Awaiting home
By adoption
By order of
By transfer from
By transfer from
††Boys who
†Returned from

Total

Adopted out
Placed out
To custody of
*Awaiting home

††These children were adopted with the understanding that they would be adopted willingly, signed

†Eight of these children and one returned

*Ten of these children

Total number

The Society has received applications for children, and the following children were placed out by Toronto and West Toronto: frequent letters were received for adoption. The children described in the table were on a farm and in the month, there were the date of the forms which are is said that when they become them to assume rejected by the F