

took one of the nervous little hands in his again comfortingly.

"So you don't try to do anything because you can't do nothing well?" he said.

"No," said Chris. "What's the use? I never shall be clever, and so it's no good working. That's why I hate my lessons so, they are such waste of time."

(To be continued.)

#### SMALL TALK ABOUT BUSINESS.

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The annual meeting of the members of the Church of England Society for providing Homes for Waifs and Strays took place at the Mansion House on Monday, the Earl of Leven and Melville presiding, supported by the Bishops of Bedford, Carlisle, and Winchester, Mr. Alban Gibbs, M.P., Mr. J. Rankin, M.P., and other supporters of the movement. From the report, which was read by the secretary (Mr. E. de M. Rudolf), it appeared that the income of the society during the past year had been £47,313, compared with £34,005 in the previous year. There had been 644 applications for the admission of children into the society's homes, as

against 576 in 1891, and 403 of these cases were accepted as against 364 in the previous year. No fewer than 14 homes were now affiliated to the society. The chairman made a powerful appeal on behalf of the claims of the society, remarking that it was established twelve years ago, when the number of homes under its control were two only, and these had increased to forty-eight. The income had increased in proportion, for it had grown from £746 to £47,000. On the motion of the Bishop of Carlisle, seconded by the Bishop of Bedford, the report and balance-sheet were adopted. Speeches in favour of the work of the society followed, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor for affording the committee the use of the Egyptian Hall for the purpose of the meeting.



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