

when the plate came to you, this thought need not make you uneasy. "Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God." (Acts x. 4).

LASTLY. THE COLLECTION IS THE CHURCH'S PLAN OF FINANCE.—Rightly used, in almost every case, it will be sufficient for all needs, and will beat out of the field all extraneous methods of getting money. We are sometimes told that it is not, like pew rents, "a certain source of income." But it is both a certain and a growing source, where the people *know* their duty because they have been taught it, and *do* their duty because they have the fear of God before their eyes. As long ago as 1843 the Rev. William Palin wrote (and his words may be confidently repeated to-day), "Generous piety, like every other good and perfect gift, is from above. It comes down from the Father of lights; it must be planted and watered: weeds only grow spontaneously. The weekly offering, therefore, will become universal, at least as to our congregations availing themselves of it, in proportion as vital religion becomes once more universal."

S. Matthew's Branch M. C. L.

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

At this the twelfth Annual Meeting of the S. Matthew's Branch of the Ministering Children's League, your Secretary has much pleasure in submitting to you the following report:

We did not begin work until the 1st of December, but since then have met regularly once a week; having had in all 17 meetings, with an average attendance of 40, out of a possible 63—35 girls, 14 boys, and 14 associate names being on our books.

The children have all seemed interested in their work, and we wish to call special attention to the boys who have been very diligent, and worked well, as may be seen from the fact that six long texts have been illuminated by some of them this season; three of these were sent to the Rev. Gowan Gillmor, Rosseau, Ont., one to the Rev. W. H. French, Aspdin, Ont., and one

to the Shingwauk Home, Sault Ste. Marie, and the sixth was painted, at the request of our President, to assist in the decorations of the Baptistery of S. Matthew's Church, at Easter.

In order to arouse greater interest in our Association, a number of the older members of the M. C. L. agreed to meet every Thursday with the children, and fulfil orders of work, &c. The result of this class has proved so satisfactory, we have decided to have a Tea, at which a number of fancy articles will be offered for sale, the proceeds to be given to the General Fund.

The officers and members of our Branch would take this opportunity to thank their kind friends who have so generously helped them with orders, and solicit their favour for the future. By the help of the voluntary subscription, so generously promised five years ago, we have been enabled to keep up the support of the Parish Nurse, and fully realizing what a blessing she is to the Parish, we earnestly trust we may be allowed to continue this branch of our work.

The bed in the Jeffery Hale Hospital will need some slight expenditure shortly. Only two patients have occupied it this year. Last summer a number of men, who were leaving the city, were supplied with Bibles by the League. In November, thirty Prayer and Hymn Books were given to S. Matthew's Church.

A Bargain Sale was also held in November. Several good articles of clothing, not being disposed of, were afterwards given to the Clothing Society.

Our League, in December, was asked to join the Cathedral League, in providing a Christmas Tree for fifty children in Aspdin, Diocese of Algoma. Receiving a very hearty response to this appeal from friends, we were not only able to send \$5.00 to the fund, but also a parcel of warm clothing to Mrs. Yolland, Barkersville, Diocese of New Westminster, for her three children.

A dressed doll and scrap-book have been given to the W. A. to put in a bale for the North-West.

Four boys and three girls, having attended the requisite number of meetings, are entitled to prizes.

It is with feelings of deepest regret, that owing to the Rev. L. W. Williams accepting the Rectorship of the Cathedral Church of this Diocese, the League will be deprived of its Rector; but we hope he will permit us to consider him one of our dearest friends, and that he may still find time to pay us an occasional visit.