

4 That as we consider this to be one of the most important departments in our work, a department which brings us very near to the sick, the sorrowing, the afflicted and the erring of God's creatures, we would urge on the part of the Superintendents, both local and County, a more complete consecration of themselves to the Master.

CURFEW BELL.

MRS. S. G. E. MCKEE, Superintendent.

The report of your Superintendent of Curfew Bell Department is not given in the regular way, as my efforts for the extension of this work during the past year have been exerted among the Municipal Councils of Ontario and not among the Unions.

A circular letter addressed to the clerk of 250 Municipalities as to the benefit and good results of the Curfew ordinance elicited only 18 replies. This small number is rather remarkable, for we have, as a rule, been treated with more courtesy, but this is due we think to the fact that our circular was sent out in holiday time. The replies, with two or three exceptions, are favorable, and some have the highest praise for the work the W. C. T. U. is trying to do for the young. We find in the United States a large number of the towns and cities, both north and south and from east to west are copying our example with profit, and speak very strongly of the need of the *Bell* as a monitor to remind both parents and children of the dangers that lurk in the secret corners of the streets.

We have been pained and also discouraged at the attitude of some who should be the friends of this measure, claiming that it is hard to enforce and difficult to administer. But this is a case of a poor excuse being better than none. The simplicity of the clause in the Act is one of its strong points and only needs a friendly eye to watch and see that there is no carelessness or flagrant violations of the By-law, and by making a few examples of first offenders, cause the rest to have a wholesome fear and respect.

It seems a pity that what is intended to be a benefit and blessing to the young, should occasionally be spoken of as a failure simply because nobody seems to care whether the By-law is enforced.

Then we must not forget that the enemy that is always on the watch and the foe whom we fight, is the enemy of the small children, seeking to train their feet towards the saloon and be in time the victims of their vile business. And where can they better look for recruits, than among those who are allowed to roam the streets at night. And so, we claim, that any agency, that will