

smaller one, or "needle's eye," allotted for foot passengers only. In the room over this gateway are many interesting relics, but I did not manage to see them. The north gate has escaped modernization, but in making the necessary repairs, much of the luxuriant foliage, which had been one of its chief beauties, had to be torn down. Nature, however, is already slowly but surely weaving a new garment of greenery with which to cover the old rents, and to give back to the fine old gateway much of its original aspect.

Amongst the old-time customs which survive in Totnes is the ringing of the Curfew (or cover-fire) bell at 8 p.m. After it has been rung on the treble bell, the day of the month is tolled on the sixth bell. The staple industries of the borough in the days of Queen Elizabeth were cloth, leather, yarn and shoe manufactures, and it did an important trade with France, its Merchant Company then safeguarding the interests of the traders. "The hose of fine Totnes" was held in high repute; but the war between Charles and his Parliament caused a decline in the woollen trade, which has now wholly disappeared. To-day, its chief exports are its cider, made from the fruit of the surrounding orchards, its choice sweetmeats, and the timber from the woods of the district, whilst its South Devon pedigree cattle have a high reputation amongst the agriculturists of the home land, as well as finding a market to some considerable extent in South Africa, and there is no sweeter cream or butter, or finer poultry, than can be bought at the Totnes market.

Another quaint old custom survives. It is that of exhibiting a white glove on the end of a staff at the Rotherfold and on the Plains, to indicate, on the day before the holding of each of the two yearly fairs, that there shall be "free and open-handed dealing." This is a survival of the past, when, except on such days, trade was confined to members of the guild-merchant, and at other times people had to pay fines for opening shops or selling goods. History, and not tradition, asserts that there was a mint in Totnes as far back as the reign of Ethelred, in 978. Coins were also minted in the town in the days of William Rufus, many specimens of both being still in existence.

THE GUILDHALL.

Perhaps the most interesting of the places I was able to visit was the quaint old guildhall, one of the pictures of which I hope our editor will be able to make room for. My kindly niece was a rosy-cheeked, typical old Devonshire woman, wife of the sexton of the grand old church of St. Mary, in the precincts of which, on what had formerly been the site of the old Priory, the present guildhall had been built, several centuries ago. After showing me the hall of justice, the committee rooms; the blocked-up old doorway which had once led to some underground cells below the council chamber; the pictures; an ancient chest, and the curious arm-

chair used by the town clerk, she pointed out some old stocks, the one-time terror of the brawler and the drunkard of the long ago, and an elm trunk, with a hole bored through the center, which once had served the purpose of a water-pipe, proving the truth of the well-worn adage that, "Necessity is the mother of invention."

THE GUILD ROLL.

The old guild roll, with names of members, is dated 1260, one name on it being struck out, because the bearer of it was hanged, the reason why not being stated.

In these days of puzzlement over

Hope's Quiet Hour.

Fifteenth Annual Report of the Toronto Children's Fresh-air Mission.

"I count this thing to be grandly true,
That a noble deed is a step towards
God,
Lifting the soul from the common sod,
To a purer air and a broader view."

Superintendent's Report, 1909.

Each year tells a wonderful story of

dren into their homes for the Master's sake. It meant real sacrifice in many cases; one lady asked for a mother and her seven children; a father, on hearing the appeal for homes, volunteered to take six boys, but returned in half an hour to say that perhaps he had better consult his wife. They certainly gave their two boys a good time. Another family, blessed with "only thirteen children" of their own, asked for two boys. A young lady with an aged mother and an invalid sister took two little girls.

It would do one's heart good to hear the children themselves tell of the "swell times we had on our farm, and they gave us all we could eat." And then to see them come tumbling off the train on their arrival home, laden with parcels containing substantial clothing, homemade bread, vegetables, chickens, pigeons, etc.; in fact, everything that would make a child happy. Best of all, to hear the children tell of being taught out of God's Word, and sometimes of a morning and evening prayers learned.

Much credit is due the railways for their continued interest; it is doubtful if this Mission would have been started if it had not been for their generous assistance. The Grand Trunk, Canadian Pacific and Canadian Northern, have kindly offered to do their part for 1910, and to show what a good example does, the Michigan Central has agreed to grant us the same rates.

Our thanks are also due Mr. Thos. Thornton, who kindly printed the Reports, also the Toronto Engraving Co., for plates for the same.

Requests for money are never made for this work; a brief report is published each year, and we are solely dependent upon those into whose hearts God puts the desire to give. We have never gone into debt, trusting our Heavenly Father for all needs.

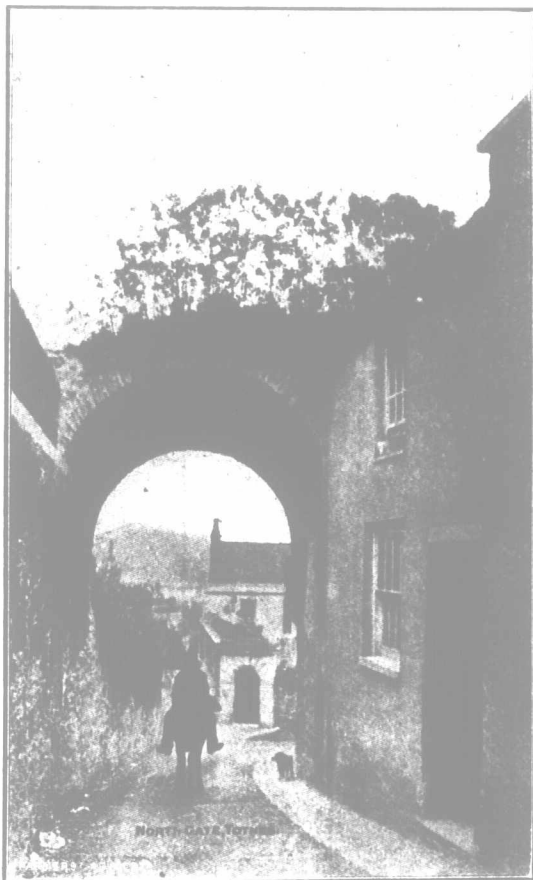
This past year shows the highest record, 702 children being sent out for at least two weeks' holidays; the previous record being 532, in 1908.

The average cost per child for a two weeks' holiday in the country is one dollar.

As the Nurses See It.

What a wealth or dearth of pleasure the word "Summer" may mean. To many it is the season when God's green earth may be enjoyed for weeks or months. Many children are at this time planning wonderful experiments to be realized when the summer holidays bring the usual trip to the country or lakeside, and preparations are perhaps already in progress. But what a contrast is presented by the word to hundreds of little children who have never seen the green fields and cool rivers that lie as yet in the recesses of their imagination. To them, summer means such long, hot days, and dirt and dust.

A few minutes' walk from the Mission would take us to a street where, in a one-roomed rear, about eight feet square, a mother and four children are living. A bed, stove and small table compose the furnishings, with the addition of a box upon which Jackie has been sleeping. The father is in a Consumptive Sanatorium, and upon the mother has fallen the problem of providing for her four little ones. Their playground is a



North Gate, Totnes.

Budget propositions and tariff reforms, it was somewhat startling to learn that, according to documentary evidence, an agreement was entered into in the year 1236 between the burgesses of Totnes and the Abbot and Convent of Buckfast, whereby the Abbot and Monks were received into the Guild, "to buy, but not to sell," and when the then Lord of the Manor exempted the Abbot and Convent of Torre from the payment of tolls, the Guild exacted from them an annual acknowledgment of two shillings for the concession. Truly, "other times, other manners."

H. A. B.

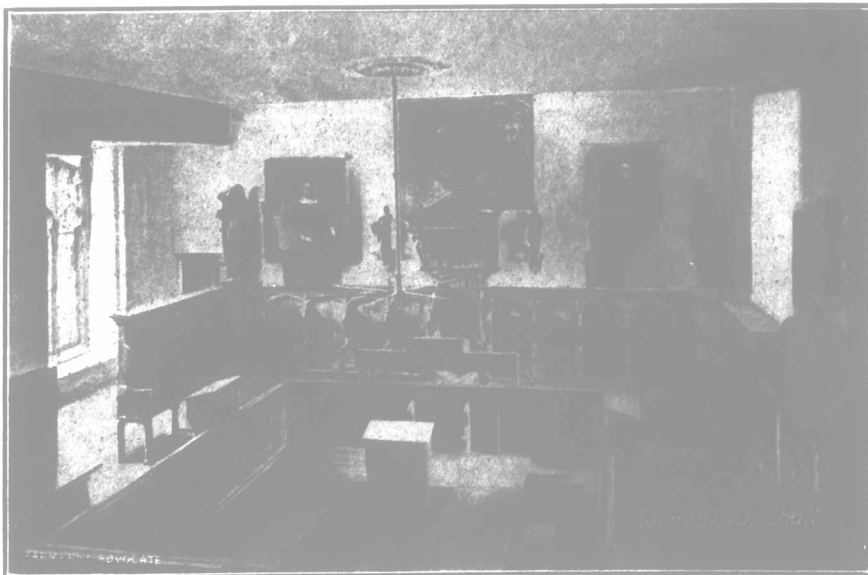
(To be continued.)

the work amongst our needy children; no one would have imagined "in the early days of small things" that it could have grown to such proportions.

We were told then that homes in the country could not be found where the children would be taken free of charge; but God implanted in the hearts of a few that there were many of His children living on good farms, who would be willing to take them if they were only made acquainted with the needs. From seven homes offered in the Lindsay district the first year, the number has now grown to about 350. . . . We indeed are grateful to all who helped in the work, especially to those who received the chil-



Totnes Guildhall.



Totnes Guildhall.