

To hear at eve the bleating of far flocks,
 The mud-hen's whistle from the marsh at
 morn ;
 To skirt with deafened ears and brain o'er-
 borne
 Some foam-filled rapid charging down its rocks
 With iron roar of waters ; far away
 Across wide-reeded meres, pensive with noon,
 To hear the querulous outcry of the loon ;
 To lie among deep rocks, and watch all day
 On liquid heights the snowy clouds melt by ;
 Or hear from wood-capped mountain brows
 the jay
 Pierce the bright morning with its jibing cry.
 Far violet hills, horizons filmed with showers,
 The murmur of cool streams, the forest's
 gloom,
 The voices of the breathing grass, the hum
 Of ancient gardens overbanked with flowers ;
 Thus, with a smile as golden as the dawn,
 And cool, fair fingers radiantly divine,
 The mighty mother brings us in her hand,
 For all tired eyes, and foreheads pinched and
 wan,
 Her restful cup, her beaker of bright wine,
 Drink and be filled, and we shall understand.
 —A. Lampman, *Ottawa, Canada,*
in Scribner's for February.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LITERATURE.

IN CONNECTION WITH PHILANTHROPIC WORK IN LOBO FIRST-DAY SCHOOL.

As this is the first public manifestation of our work along this line as a body, there is little to report aside from what the programme of to-day will represent.

Thought is the spring of action, and as our thoughts are aroused and we become fully awakened to the opportunities lying around us we will find work.

In 1882 the Friends' Union for Philanthropic Labor was fully organized. Four subjects were discussed, viz.; Prison Reform, Intemperance, Arbitration and Compulsory Education, as means through which crime may be prevented.

In 1884 the same subjects were taken up, but this time with the addition of Literature. A great need being felt that instead of the current sensational and corrupting literature, good wholesome mental food may be supplied.

In 1888 reports on this subject were received and able articles read, in which were pointed out many of the dangers lying about us as well as their remedy. Since that Government has been memorialized and is doing what may be done in this way to suppress the circulation of impure literature, but what we now want is good pure literature to crowd out the impure.

And from many of our First day School Associations comes the call for more pure literature, more pure wholesome food upon which the young minds may be fed in order to develop a pure and noble man and womanhood.

And gradually the work is spreading as the needs are seen and the endeavor to supplant not only the reading matter that is harmful by that which is elevating and ennobling, but also to suppress such practices in the world at large as gambling, betting and other kindred vices.

Humane work, or kindness to animals, is also receiving attention, and thereby much suffering saved our poor dumb animals, who are our friends and should receive our thoughtful care and kindness. I will quote what the president of the American Humane Society says of the progress he has noted in this line. He says :—

"I have travelled many thousand miles, visiting ranches, stock yards, markets and other centres of animal industry. Everywhere there is a marked change in feeling and in methods. Nowhere are animals regarded as mere chattels, to be treated as the objects of their owner's mere caprice or impulse. Everywhere, even in places where we would not look for it, there hovers over the speechless brute the angelic wings of a pervasive protection.

"The old question of the Apostle, 'Does God care for the oxen?' has found its answer in this time and place, where law and public sentiment and active supervision have made cruelty, which was once the commonplace treatment of the animals a disgrace and a crime."