

Close Twentieth Year of Children's Aid Society

Annual Meeting on Friday Night Shows Works for Little Ones in District Goes Steadily On; Many Cases Dealt With by Superintendent; Interesting Address Given

When members of the Children's Aid Society of Temiskaming met on Friday evening last for the annual meeting, it marked the closing of twenty years of steady work by the Society in the interests of the homeless and neglected little ones of the district. There was a large number present to hear the reports for the year and to lend their assistance to the cause. The meeting was presided over by Mayor G. T. Hamilton, president of the Society, and the secretary and local superintendent, Mr. J. R. McCracken, gave an exhaustive report of the year's work.

After reading the minutes of the last annual meeting, the secretary referred to the loss which the Society had sustained through the death of Mr. Geo. T. Smith, who had been a charter member and for many years past the treasurer. At the suggestion of Rev. Canon Hincks, those present paid a tribute to Mr. Smith's memory by standing in silence for a short period, and other speakers who addressed the meeting later, spoke with feeling of his long and faithful service.

In presenting his report for the year, Mr. McCracken gave some interesting and enlightening figures in regard to the work. A total of 449 children had been involved in the various investigations and actions which had been handled. Of these 17 had been brought to the Shelter here as non-wards and 18 had been received from the court. Of these 14 had been returned to their parents, three had been sent to the Industrial School and there had been five legal adoptions during the year. In his work during the year the superintendent had travelled 13,378 miles, the report stated, had received 770 communications by mail and had written 1,080 letters. He had addressed 10 meetings and had appeared in court on 37 occasions. There had been 13 wards of the Society placed in foster homes and 66 had been visited during the year. Parents had been prosecuted in eight cases and there had been 12 cases dealt with under the unmarried parents' act. One hundred and ninety-four complaints had been received by Mr. McCracken and he had made 322 investigations. The financial statement showed that there had been over \$6,000 handled during the year.

The foregoing is only a short summary of the secretary's report, which will be published in full in these columns at a later date, but it shows to some extent what problems the Society has to face.

In his address as president, Mayor Hamilton spoke of the bright days and dark days which had been encountered. There was little difference between the Society and many other organizations. It had its good times and bad, but the work of caring for the neglected little ones went on continuously, even though it had to do almost entirely with the darker side. He spoke with appreciation of the work of the local superintendent, Mr. McCracken, saying he did not understand how he could keep so cheerful when his contacts were all with people in trouble. He hoped the Society would see fit to grant him an increase in salary, as he did not see how anyone could live and keep a family at the superintendent's present rate any more than he could understand a man "keeping his disposition sweet when dealing entirely with trouble. This question was discussed later in the evening and it is expected that the executive will consider it later and that an increase will be the outcome.

Rev. Father Martindale of Cobalt, gave a very interesting address to the Society, although he said it appeared unusual to go to men for information on child welfare who were debarred by their calling from having children of their own. As he saw the problem, it appeared that the child's personal responsibility to society and to his God was not sufficiently emphasized. He did not know what other creeds were doing, but he believed that the Roman Catholic Church was doing its part of the fact that the children were made to go and confess their sins, thus making

them realize that they were in the presence of God and bringing home to them their personal responsibility.

While most men, Father Martindale said, believe that conditions in their own country are superior to any others, and are taught this in the schools, it was not the best system in his opinion. He believed that he himself would have been a thousand times more loyal to his country if some of the truths had been pointed out, instead of having it impressed on him that others were always in the wrong. If it was admitted that there are elements in other countries which are superior and that if they could be put together to form a universal ideal, it would improve the education and ways of living in all countries.

That what is generally known as education is sometimes a mere superficiality was another thought brought out by Father Martindale. There were many boys and girls, he said, who could not spell their own names that he would not have change places with others who received all the advantages of modern training. Education, he said, was not entirely in learning how, but rather in learning why and in getting the relative values. This, unfortunately, is not the view of some in charge of education, the speaker said.

Speaking of his travels in Europe, Father Martindale said that he had found conditions better there in some ways, but of all countries he had visited conditions at home please him best. There was a better home life which was more intimate and wholesome in England, France and Italy, he said, where parents

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THE RHYMING OPTIMIST

By Aline Michaelis

Defences

Let us build a fortress,
Shutting Love inside,
Where no thief can enter,
Where no foe can hide.

Let us keep it guarded
Always through the year
So that Love may never
Know the taste of tears.

Let no winds unkindly
Blow within the place;
Let no light too glaring
Fall upon Love's face.

If we shield Love closely
He will surely stay
In our mighty fortress
Forever and a day.

Ah, the futile fortress,
Ah, the foolish plan;
Love's one chain was freedom
Since the world began!

TRUE LIFE

True life is growth; by this alone
Is our extent of living shown.

No measurement of days or years
Of heights or depths, of joys or fears

Can fitly serve to show how far
Upon the road of life we are.
And only as we look behind
To selves of other times, we find

Ourselves today more strong,
more wise,
We gain a glimpse that satisfies.

We see how we have grasped
some good
From trials once misunderstood.

We learn how every evil thing
At last must lose its hurt and sting,
When we have grown enough to see

Bright purpose through dark
mystery.
True life is growth; through it
we find

New meanings, merciful and kind

Health Service of the Canadian Medical Association

Comforts

Most undesirable things have at least one or two points in their favor. The comfort, or pacifier, has not one redeeming feature which may be put forward to balance the many bad and undesirable qualities which it possesses.

To begin with, it does not even do what it pretends. It does not comfort or pacify the baby. Crying is stopped for a time, because the baby always stops crying when he gets what he wants, and he does want his comfort if he has been used to having one.

Some parents may think that because the baby cries for the comfort, it should be given to him, as he apparently knows what he wants. But do they give him everything he cries and reaches for, or do they discriminate in what they give him because they know more than the baby does about what is good for him?

The constant sucking of the comfort makes the child irritable and tends to upset him. It quiets him for a few minutes, because he gets what he wants, but after that it only irritates him.

A serious result of the use of the comfort is deformity of the mouth that results if the habit is continued. The bones of the baby's body are comparatively soft and rather easily moulded. The continued sucking of the comfort forces the bones around the mouth into an abnormal shape. Projecting teeth are among the mouth deformities that follow.

The most serious condition that result from the use of the comfort are due to the introduction of disease germs into the

mouth of the child. It is impossible to keep a comfort clean. To do so would mean that it should be boiled every time it is used, just as the feeding bottles and nipples are boiled after they are used. The comfort is moist, and as it hangs from the child's neck, it comes into contact with many articles; the result is that it is soiled by the many things which it touches.

The use of the comfort is simply a bad habit which may do the child permanent harm by deforming the mouth, and on which is, no doubt, a real factor in the spread of disease.

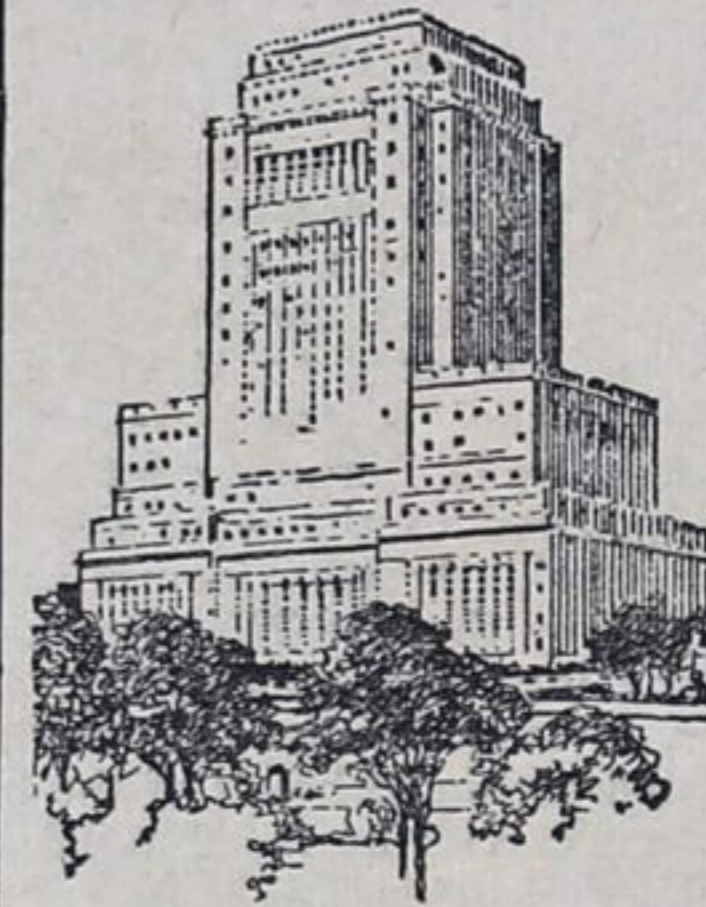
There is no reason why a baby should be constantly sucking at something. The comfort does not help to keep the baby heal-

thy. If the child is irritable, there is something wrong which should be properly dealt with, and most certainly the proper way to relieve him is not by sticking something into his mouth.

Not so many years ago, every baby was rocked in a cradle and put into long clothes that prevented him from kicking his legs out and having the exercise he needed. The rocking cradle and the long clothes have passed into disuse, and the sooner the comfort goes the same way, the better it will be for the baby.

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