

EXCELLENT REPORTS OF CHILDREN'S WORK

Children's Aid Society Officers Report At the Annual Meeting.

Comprehensive enough to include in detail all the work executed by the Children's Shelter during the year ending October 31, 1923, was the report presented at the annual meeting of the Children's Aid Society Monday evening of last week in the Shelter by Mr. A. E. Trout, the society's superintendent in the county of Grey and the city of Owen Sound.

The children have benefited, especially those who might be called "underprivileged," and the ministrations of the Shelter and Mr. Trout to their needs have been of the very highest order. According to the report there are 11 children in the Shelter, as compared with 19 at the same period last year.

"Once more, through the kind Providence of God, it is our privilege to meet and review the work of the year just closed. One year ago we had 19 children in our Shelter. During the past 12 months, 11 children have been committed to our care as wards, six from Grey County and five from the city of Owen Sound. In every case but one the cause of commitment was due to neglect of parents or inability to support the children. One only was guilty of an offence, theft. Of the above 11, six are in the Shelter at the close of the year. The other five have been placed in foster homes. In addition to the above, five others are in the Shelter, making a total of 11 in residence on October 31.

Since our last annual meeting we have admitted to our Shelter 20 children who were not wards, but in need of temporary care, owing to illness or other similar cause. The number of children claiming our attention for the year was 301. We received 78 applications for children and were able to fill 13 of these. The majority were for boys or girls old enough to work. There were 52 cases in the Juvenile Court. In a number of these cases, where adults were concerned, fines were imposed but where the child was the offender they were in almost every case placed on probation and ordered to report to the Probation Officer for a period of six months.

We were in court 64 times during the year in the interests of children. Three children were sent to the Industrial School, one from the county and two from the city. We received 107 complaints where children were concerned and made investigation in every case; had 286 office interviews and 1,460 telephone conversations. We received 768 pieces of mail and sent out 977 pieces; addressed four public meetings on C. S. A. work. We issued 155 warnings to parents or guardians, have officially visited over 200 children in foster homes; have dealt with 19 cases under the Unmarried Parents' Act, and effected settlement in several of these, collecting in cash and agreements over \$2,000.00. We have also executed adoption for six children and have three others going through. All this has involved 6,451 miles of travel.

Problems Repeat Themselves.

This is the 11th annual report your present agent is presenting (the society is much older) of work amongst the neglected children, and during this period 176 have been made our wards from year to year. The work varies but little. We meet the same problems each year:

- (1) Incompetent, incapable parents who do not understand the first principles of child training;
(2) The careless and indifferent parents whose sole attitude is that of "don't care";
(3) The parents who have fought a losing battle in their efforts to rear families against distress and poverty. For this class there is due our sympathy and help;
(4) The immoral parent or parents. This is the most difficult of all classes to deal with. These are they who have so far forgotten themselves and their obligations that they have become blind to the best interests of their children.

Some Descend Low.

We might cite many cases under this head. One will suffice. A little over a year ago a mother left town, taking her two children, bright, attractive girls. She was threatened with arrest if she did not return. She came back, not to her home, but to our office and transferred the children to our care. We took the girls to the Shelter and this woman took the first train out of town and returned to man No. 2. After several months she and her husband appealed for possession of the children on the promise that they were going to re-establish their home. We granted their request but in a very short time there was further trouble and again the mother gave up the children and left the city, returning

to live with this man not her husband. This may be an extreme case, but furnishes proof of the depths to which some people descend in the moral scale.

A Few Of the Cases.

A few of the many cases claiming our attention are as follows:

(1) A family of four children. The mother a dissolute character consorting with undesirables of both sexes was summoned to court. She denied the charge. The father, who was on the lakes, was sent for, came home and undertook to care for the children. His wife soon left him and the children. He arranged for them with friends.

(2) Two merchants in a village in the county charged with selling cigarettes to minors, were brought to court, were convicted and fined \$10 and costs.

(3) Father of four children who abandoned his family, left town, and failed to support them for months. He was arrested and brought to court. As this was his second offence he was committed to jail for a term. On promises of good conduct he was paroled and so far is providing for his family.

(4) A family of four children, the eldest of whom was blind, were in wretched, destitute circumstances. For a long time efforts were made to better the conditions of this family and to persuade the family to send the boy to the school for the blind, without avail. So he was summoned to court and compelled to act. The lad was fitted out at an outlay of over \$60.00, paid by the Rotary Club, and went to the school. Later on the mother died. The three remaining children were made wards and await placement in foster homes.

(5) Father, mother, and two children, living in the country. Both parents strong and able to work, but not willing. The mother was quite ready to pass her offspring into our hands that she might be free. We had many visits from this couple, first one, then the other, coming and relating their tales of woe. We brought them to court on two occasions. The last time, the mother was given the choice of going home and acting the part of a mother, or going to jail. She chose the latter course. We removed the children to the Shelter. While waiting removal to the jail, she relented and promised to do better. We returned the children. They all went to the country, hired with a farmer, and are there at this writing. Thus the family were saved separation.

(6) A young girl left home, took train to Toronto without her mother's knowledge. We were advised, telephoned to our Provincial Superintendent, who had her met on arrival. She did not know why she was there, where she would stay, nor knew any person in the city, and was without money. A fine subject for some of the unprincipled persons who are ever alert to trap the innocent. Arrangements were made for her return home, where she appears to have steadied down.

(7) A family residing in the south part of the county were in trouble. Domestic sailing was very rough. A family of five children with their parents lived in the north country. Their father came to Grey County and hired with a relative on the farm. After a time his wife and children came. On arrival she discovered a strong intimacy between

her husband and a widowed daughter in the house where he worked. Naturally this meant friction. We were sent for, did our best to heal the breach but failed, then arranged for the placement of three of the children, the mother undertaking to look after herself and two of the youngest members of the family.

(8) A child in a foster home was abused. The foster parents were prosecuted and fined for ill-treatment.

(9) A family living in the country with one child. The father was sent to jail for forgery. The mother came to Owen Sound, gave the child, three years old, to a most respectable woman who executed adoption. We heard of it, interfered, took charge of the child, summoned the mother to court. The child was made a "ward" and is in our Shelter to-night. We know not where his mother is.

These are but a few of the many cases dealt with during the year.

Wards Are Happy.

Our family consists of over 200 girls and boys within the county, most of them on farms. All have been officially visited and, for the most part, found healthy and happy. A few of the older amongst them are restless, tire of country life, and desire to come to the city. We endeavor to show them that living on the farm is preferable. We found a very large percentage of our wards are treated kindly. They have won the good-will of those with whom they are living and many of the foster parents say something like this: "Mary is just like our own child," or "We do not know how we could get along without Jim," or "We never think of Harold other than our very own until you come on the place," while the children appear perfectly at home. With pride, the new dress, the new shoes or new suit is shown to the visitor, and we are invited to come outside and see our colt or calf. They are a real part of it all. They belong to that home. Such experiences are enjoyable and help to offset some of the unpleasant encounters we have, as we carry on our work.

Appreciation Expressed.

In closing this report I should like to express my personal appreciation of the interest taken by so many people in this work and of the very

cordial relations existing between Mr. Kelso's office and the local society, and also to say that I believe that I have one of the finest executive committees with which to work that can be found anywhere in the Province.

I also wish to thank the County Council for their interest and help. They have shown real interest in our efforts as well as giving practical help. The City Council are also worthy of mention for their continued assistance. The ladies, young and older, who canvassed the city for funds, deserve our highest thanks. The teachers and scholars in the rural schools who responded to our appeal for funds are to be commended. The Women's Institutes throughout the County, and to the workers in Meaford, Durham and Hanover are due the best thanks of our executive.

Doctors Commended.

I should like to make special mention of the doctors of Owen Sound. These men give their services absolutely free to all wards of the society in the Shelter, taking the work a month each. This is a wonderful contribution to the cause and shows a fine type of men in the medical profession in Owen Sound. Our sincerest thanks are due them and also to the general public who make the work possible.

As Agent, I feel I cannot close this statement without reference to the departure of Mrs. Winter as Shelter Matron. For ten years Mrs. Winter has labored faithfully within the Home. She has been a real mother to all who have crossed the threshold of the Shelter. Often the work has been hard and trying, yet Mrs. Winter has not complained. She now feels that she is not able to continue. We regret her going, and in leaving us she carries the best wishes of the society. We hope the years that lie before her may bring an abundance of peace.

Facing another year of service, we hope for a continuance of interest and help on the part of all who are anxious to do what they are able to guide the footsteps of our children in the ways of truth and safety, and to lead them unto Him, who said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Remembering also the promise that

"whosoever giveth a cup of cold water unto such shall not lose his reward."

HOW TO EAT

Many people think of the stomach as the place where food is digested, but in reality it is the mouth where digestion begins. When food has been kept long enough in the mouth to be thoroughly mixed with the saliva, an important part of the digestion process has already occurred. When the food is well chewed it gets mixed with the mouth juices, and this is one reason why complete mastication of the food is necessary. Every part of the digestive tract has its own role to fill in the process of digestion. If the mouth does not do its part by mixing the food with saliva, the stomach is overburdened in doing extra work.

What, then, does the mouth actually do in the digestive process? It converts starch into sugar through the action of the saliva. This is one of the first steps, and if the mouth does not do this work the stomach has to do it. That the stomach is able and does take on the functions of the teeth and mouth does not alter the fact that this work of pre-digestion should be accomplished by chewing. For, sooner or later, the stomach, working overtime, will cease to do its work properly and, when it gives out the owner finds himself a victim of some sort of indigestion. Thorough mastication is necessary for other reasons. The longer the food is retained in the mouth and the longer it is chewed, the more chance the taste nerves have to come into contact with it; and when the palate is satisfied the appetite is appeased and the desire for food goes. In this way one does not need to eat so much food to remove the sense of hunger. The same mouthful of food retained in the mouth for sixty seconds will go nearly as far towards satisfying the taste nerves as two mouthfuls re-

tained in the mouth thirty seconds each. It can thus be seen that thorough mastication of food is a preventive of over-eating, and it may be said that over-eating is one of the dietary sins of the age.

The savory taste of food, in addition to the motion of the jaws and cheeks, facilitates the flow of saliva. It is necessary that the mouth juices be incorporated with the food while it is still in the mouth. Chewing of gum or other substances between meals creates an undue flow of saliva at a time when the salivary glands should be at rest. The result is a shortage of that necessary fluid when the next meal time arrives.

A Changed Attitude.

In 1914 Germany desired world dominion. Now she desires the world to feed her.



Shop at Home

from the sample case of beautiful Christmas Gift Sets which the Fuller Man will show you.

Fuller Brushes in Christmas Sets

are the finest gifts any woman could give or hope to receive. Each set furnished in attractive holly boxes.

Write or phone me to come around and show them to you.

W. G. Bayley, Box 410, Hanover

PRINCE'S CAFE

MIDDAUGH HOUSE BLOCK, DURHAM

Under New Management

We are prepared to cater to the wants of the public and solicit the patronage of all, whom we will endeavor to please by courteous treatment and good service. Make Prince's Cafe your headquarters for private dinner or evening parties of any kind. Service shall be our motto and satisfied patrons our object.

Regular Meals Served American Plan at Usual Hours

SPECIAL RESTAURANT SERVICE 6.30 a.m. to 2 a.m.

21-Meal Tickets \$5.90

To be used in 7 days

ROOMS TO LET By the Week at Moderate Charges

LET US DEMONSTRATE OUR SUPERIOR MEALS & SERVICE

LEM LEE, Prop., DURHAM Opposite City Garage

LITTLE JIMMY



By Swinnerton

JERRY ON THE JOB

