THE TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Home for Destitute and Motherless Children,

(UNSECTARIAN).

Founded 1800 by Miss R. A. HUTCHIN and Mr. HERBERT W. WHITE.

Hon. Medical Officer—Dr. F. A. MARTIN FLEGG, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.S.A., Southdene, George Lane. Hon. Auditor—Mr. Albert Willmott, F.C.A., Chartered Accountant, 14, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C. Hon. Dentist—Mr. W. C. WATSON, George Lane (Opposite G.E.R. Station).

RESIDENT WORKERS.

Miss R. A. HUTCHIN. Miss F. HUTCHIN.

Miss O. HALL.
Mr. and Mrs. H. W. WHITE.

May, 1910.

DEAR FRIENDS,

This Report bears special interest, particularly to the founders, as it closes the first decade and opens a second in the history of the Home, and one is tempted to review the past covering that time when God laid upon our hearts the need of taking up such work for Him. After ten years' experience, we can declare that we are not sorry for the step then taken, but have found great joy in His service, and are glad to-day that we obeyed His voice when He called. We can, without doubt, trace the guiding hand of God in all steps that have been taken, and we praise Him for the doors which He has opened and led us through. From the time when we commenced in the Market, George Lane, where we stayed only a few months, and then moved to "The Woodlands "in Latchett Road, staying there for one year from April 1900 to 1901, and having by this time six children in the Home. We then moved to the first of the four houses we now occupy, and by April, 1902, had 14 girls, and during the same year took the second house here, and commenced the Boys' Home, workers and money specially coming for that purpose, closing this year with 4 boys, or 18 in all. The third year concluded with 31 children, at the end of which we opened a house opposite, and by the end of the fourth year brought the numbers to 40. No increase in numbers was made during the fifth year, which closed with 39 children. We started the sixth year by opening the two new houses which had been joined to the old ones, leaving the house opposite, and finishing this year with 60, which number we have (roughly) maintained up to the present time, sometimes having a few less, and on one occasion—January, 1910—bringing the total to 74, but the authorities would not allow this, as they think we only have room with our present buildings for not more than 58. We felt that we could not take further premises at present, as our liabilities have exceeded our income again this year, so were bound, therefore, to make arrangements for some of the children to leave, some being returned to their straitened circumstances, whilst homes were found for others. This set-back was rather a trial to us, but we accept it as one of the "all things." We think it possible that, with the small number of workers and means at our disposal, we were attempting too much, and that God in His wisdom has permitted this for a wise purpose.

We started the Home with the object of helping destitute and motherless cases—of being the instruments in God's hands of bringing the children under our care to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, and of proving that God is able to answer prayer by appealing to Him alone for funds. These objects are being carried out. 154 children have been helped many of whom have accepted Jesus as their Saviour, and have obtained salvation through faith in Him, and the principle concerning funds has been adhered to.

The following are specimens of applications received during the past year:-

X" I am writing to ask if you will receive some or all of a family whose mother has become lunatic and whose father cannot afford to pay much for the four of them. Eldest, a girl aged 10, the others, boys aged 7 and 4, girl aged 6. There is no one who can look after them, the only relative being the paternal grandmother, who is far too old to do so. Can you assist at all? They are strong, healthy children, and their present home must, for their own sakes, be left as soon as possible, as they take every advantage of her age and deafness when not in school."

"Can you assist the following? Mother has been dead three years, father, a fish porter, goes to work at 3 a.m., two girls aged 8 and 10. The eldest girl seems to spend her time just as and where she likes. The father is absent, and the elder sister is unable to control the child. The youngest one has lost the sight of one eye, and has apparently no other control than that exercised by the teachers at school."

"I am a widow, and have two children, one a boy 11 years of age, and a girl six, I am anxious to get them into a home, as I cannot earn enough to support them. Trusting you will do what you can, as I do not want to have to take them into the Union."

—"I had the misfortune to lose my wife by death, and have five little ones, the youngest 1 year 8 months, the eldest 9 years. I can manage to get the baby cared for, but I cannot get the other four provided for, and supervised as they should be. I should be extremely grateful if I can get them into your Home. My wages are 24s. a week."

We are continually receiving applications of this kind, and would ask our readers to join us in earnest prayer, that the way may be cleared from every point of view, so that we may be able to help more of these deserving cases. Four of the elder children have left us during the year, three boys, who have gone to work, and one girl, who is in service, and doing well. This makes quite a number of children who have left us for work, and it is very gratifying to be constantly receiving letters from them, telling us how well they are getting on. I will give one

extract from a letter received from our first girl, who was with us for 8 years, and who is now in service in Ontario. "I suppose you have heard of my long illness, but am thankful to say I am better now, but very weak, I am not the same Rosie as I was when I left the old country. I have got so thin you would not know me, I was looking over your letters the other day, and felt so homesick to think I ever left the old homestead that sheltered me for so long. I shall never get a home as good as that one was. I am living with a Baptist Minister. I hope to see you all some day, if not on earth, in Heaven. I have my daily reading every morning, I could not do without it."

Although the past year has in some respects been one of trial, it has without doubt been one of many blessings. The Seven Kings Sewing Meeting have again done splendidly, and helped us to the extent of 278 garments. The work meeting at Anstey, although not so big, have again rendered us timely assistance. We have also received from individuals many newly-made garments and numerous parcels of second-hand clothing, boots, etc., which have all greatly assisted us, and for which we praise God. A friend last June was led to start a boot club for our work, and. together with two others, collected weekly pennies amongst their friends, who had promised to become subscribers to the boot fund. The result has been that they have collected in this way £8 0s. 1d., with which our friend has bought 43 pairs of boots, or nearly one pair per week. Needless to say, this has been a very great assistance, and we do heartily thank both the collectors and those who have subscribed. Gifts in kind, too, have been numerous during the past year, and we have had many and varied tokens that God is mindful of our labours here. Amongst other things, we received from the neighbouring churches proceeds of their Harvest Festivals, and from another neighbouring Sunday School (whose children make it their practice to take a Christmas gift to their School) quite a quantity of toys, clothing, and Christmas goodies. From a friend in Leytonstone, two large cases of separate pounds of provisions, which she kindly collected amongst her numerous friends. We have received baskets of meat, flour, potatoes, turkeys, sausages, milk, oatmeal, tapioca, peas, apples, sweets, jams, sugar, rice, butter, condensed milk, cake, strawberries, and a host of other things, all of which have helped to brighten the lives A second-hand silver watch, coal, and a cartload of wood have also come in.

From a financial standpoint we have had the best year since the start, and I will give the following totals showing this:—

From April,	1900,	to April,	1901,	we	received	L £54	15	$2\frac{3}{4}$
,,	1901	,,	1902			214	7	7
"	1902	,,	1903			204	16	$6\frac{3}{4}$
,,	1903	,,	1904			246		$8\frac{1}{4}$
,,	1904	,,	1905			332	14	$11\frac{1}{4}$
"	1905	,,	1906			453	6	$11\frac{3}{4}$
"	1906	••	1907			425	0	$2\frac{1}{2}$
"	1907	"	1908			431	17	$9\frac{3}{4}$
,,	1908	,,	1909		• •	420	7	$11\frac{1}{2}$
,,	1909	,,	1910		• •	467	0	$10\frac{1}{2}$

Total for 10 years £3,251 3 10

You will see that the next best year was 1905 to 1906, when the total reached £453, but I was then in business and able to put over £90 into the funds, which, of course, I have been unable to repeat this year, but, notwithstanding this, we have topped that year with a further £14 to the good. For this we would ask you to join us in praise to God for thus disposing the hearts of His people to help us.

Our Ninth Annual Meetings took place on the 20th May, in the Baptist Church, George Lane, kindly lent for the occasion. In the afternoon, the Rev. G. A. Hamson presided. The speakers were Mrs. Charles Barclay, Rev. C. H. Vine, of Ilford, and Mr. J. A. Aylott. The evening meeting was presided over by Mr. V. G. Levett, the speakers being Mr. J. Shephard, Rev. A. A. Savage, and Mrs. Charles Barclay, who again gave us two most inspiring messages. The children sang and recited at both meetings, which were well attended.

One of the most interesting items of the year was the Sunday School excursion to Clacton-on-Sea. Our School joined the other schools in the neighbourhood. The funds for this purpose were given by several churches and friends, again mainly through the energies of our School Secretary. Although a week before the excursion took place we had nothing towards it, by the necessary time over £15 came in, and we were not only enabled to give each child spending money, but had a balance of over £3 to transfer to the Home funds. The children greatly appreciated this.

We are again thankful to report that the health of the children continues exceedingly good, and with the exception of a little skin trouble which we have just got over, we have had nothing of a serious character since the outbreak of diphtheria some four years ago. We appreciate greatly the continued assistance which Dr. Flegg, our Hon. Medical Officer, is still giving us. Our thanks are also due to Mr. Watson, the Hon. Dentist, and Mr. Willmott, the Hon. Auditor.

Will our friends please join us specially in prayer for the following during the coming year:—

That God may glorify Himself through the workers here.

That God will save all our children.

That He will answer our prayers for funds to purchase these buildings as a permanent Home.

That our income this year may exceed our liabilities.

That our daily need may be supplied.

Visiting hours for relatives and friends of the children are every Saturday, between 6 and 8 p.m. (which time must be strictly adhered to, unless special permission is obtained) and for visitors any afternoon between 3 and 5, except Sundays and Mondays.

That God may bless all who have in any way helped during the year is the earnest

prayer of Miss R. A. Hutchin, Workers, and

Yours in Him,

THE HOME FOR DESTITUTE AND MOTHERLESS CHILDREN, SOUTH WOODFORD,

Statement of Receipts and Payments from May 1st, 1909, to April 30th, 1910.

RECEIPTS.	PAYMENTS.
£ s. d. £ s. d.	£ s, d. £ s. d.
To Balance of last Account 1 1 , Donations 119 0 10½	By Rent, Rates and Taxes, Gas and Fuel 147 7 4
, Subscriptions 101 8 6	" Provisions, &c 241 8 5‡
,, Boxes 36 7 10256 17 2½	,, Sundry Articles of Clothing, Linen, &c., including Boots, &c 42 4 5½
,, Sale of Old Clothes, &c 14 7 ,, Repayments on Account of cost of Board and Lodging of	"Printing, Postages and Stationery 9 0 11½
Children 209 8 0	"Wages 10 7 5 "Incidental Expenses, includ-
	ing Fares, Repairs, &c $16 7 6\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$
	"Balance carried forward … 4 9
£467 0 10½	£467 0 10½

I have examined the above Account with the Books and Vouchers, and certify the same to be correct.

ALBERT WILLMOTT, Chartered Accountant,

May 13th, 1910.

Honorary Auditor.

NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF EVERY RECEIPT ISSUED.

No.	£s.	d.]	No.	£	s.	d.		No.	£		d.	1	No.	£		d.	1	No.		£ s.	d.	8	No.	£		d.
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