

THE TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Home for Destitute and Motherless Children,

(UNSECTARIAN).

Founded 1899 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 O. HALL.

Miss F. HUTCHIN.

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 :—

× "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

