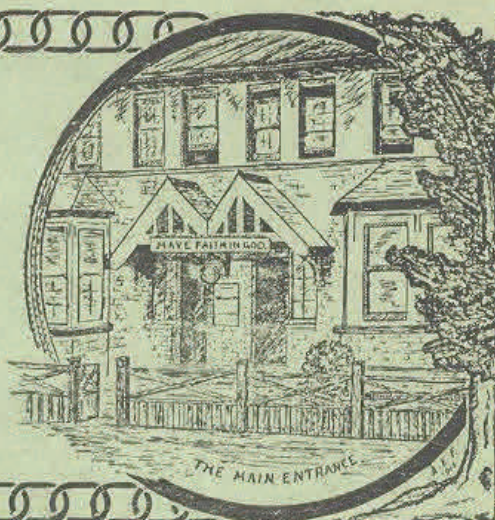


CHILDREN'S HOME LINKS



The Quarterly Paper of THE HOME FOR DESTITUTE AND MOTHERLESS CHILDREN.
Crescent Road, South Woodford. Founded 1899.

VOL. 4. No. 1.

JULY, 1915.

PRICE ONE PENNY.



"ONE THING IS NEEDFUL"—*Jesus Christ.*

"THE HOUR OF PRAYER" (Acts 3—1) is at 3 p.m. EVERY FIRST THURSDAY in the month, here.

NO PRAYER—NO BLESSING.
LITTLE PRAYER—LITTLE BLESSING.
MUCH PRAYER—MUCH BLESSING.

"If My people shall pray *then* will I hear."—2 Chron. vii., 14.
- YOU ARE WELCOME. -

All cheques, money and postal orders should be made payable to H. W. WHITE, and crossed London, City and Midland Bank, Limited.

Hon. Workers :

Mr. HERBERT W. WHITE. (Supt.)

Miss R. A. HUTCHIN (Mother). Mrs. EDITH H. WHITE (Secretary).

Miss E. COMAN (Boys' Matron). Miss F. HUTCHIN. Mr. E. G. 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, London, E.C.

Hon. Dentist :

Mr. W. C. WATSON, George Lane (Opposite G.E.R. Station).

Hon. Musical Instructor : Mr. W. G. FISHER.*Hon. Drill Instructresses :*

Girls—Miss M. HUTCHINGS. Infants—Miss G. LE VIERGE.

Working Parties inaugurated by friends to make garments for our children:—

SEVEN KINGS' SEWING MEETING :

Secretary—Mrs. B. FULLER, 3, Airthrie Road, Goodmayes.

ANSTEY SEWING MEETING :

Secretary—Miss CATON, Anstey, Herts.

HIGHBURY VALE SEWING MEETING :

Secretary—Miss E. SANDERS, 45, Elwood Street, Highbury.

PUCKERIDGE SEWING MEETING :

Secretary—Miss C. H. WOOD, Pleasant Cottage, Puckeridge, Herts.

MUSWELL HILL SEWING MEETING :

Secretary—Mrs. HALES, Halesmere, Wetherill Road, New Southgate.

LANSDOWNE SEWING CIRCLE, SEVEN KINGS :

Secretary—Mrs. BROWNE, 106, Lansdowne Road, Seven Kings.

LEYTONSTONE SEWING MEETING :

Secretary—Mrs. BURDEN, 32, Leyboarne Road, Leytonstone.

BOOT CLUB :

Secretary—Mrs. SUCKLING, 2, Albert Villas, Peel Road, Woodford.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We send this issue out with great thankfulness to God for bringing us safely to the close of our 15th year which ended on the 30th April.

You will find the cash statement for the same, showing how during this time of war God has not been unmindful of us and that our income was the largest yet received, although only £2 greater than the previous year. Of course our liabilities have been heavier on account of the war prices on all commodities, and we would ask our friends to specially remember us in prayer on this point.

Our 15th Annual Gatherings were held on May 13th and a report of the afternoon Meeting is given on another page.

We should like here to thank our many friends who have helped us in the past, not forgetting our Hon. Auditor and Dentist and the friends who come at intervals to help us in the Home in mending, decorating and gardening.

It has been my great privilege to conduct missions and take part in meetings among the troops in training and some of the wounded who have returned from the front, as well as to conduct services at the seaside and in other places both in and out of doors and God has been graciously pleased to set His seal to the ministry in the salvation of many souls.

H.W.



DIARY.



FEBRUARY.

1st. Kensington 10s., Limehouse 10s., Hendon £1, Willesden 8s., Stratford £1 10s.

3rd. Isle of Wight £3 10s. 0d.

4th. Isle of Wight £1 19s. 0d., Anstey £1, Woodford (for boots) 4s. 6d.

5th. Blackheath £3 18s. 0d., Brighton £1.

6th. Woodford 7s., Walthamstow £1, Clerkenwell 10s.

8th. Westcliff 18s. 2d., Kensington 10s., Woodford Bridge £1, Anon. London 3s. 6d., with "With best wishes for the Home."

10th. Muswell Hill 10s., together with 4 petticoats, 2 shirts, 1 pr. socks, 1 pr. gloves, 2 cot covers, 1 baby's dress, 1 bib, 1 coat, some S.H. shoes, 6 prs. stockings, undergarments, etc. Plaistow £1.

12th. Churcham 3s., Leytonstone 2s.

13th. Woodford 3s.

15th. Anstey 1½ doz. new laid eggs. Leytonstone 2 scrap books, Willesden 8s., Kensington 10s., Limehouse 10s., Anstey £1 10s., £1 10s., and £1. Puckeridge 7s. 5d., Woodford 4s., Leytonstone 1s., Anstey 1s.

16th. Woodford 1 pr. S.H. boots.

19th. Littlehampton parcel of S.H. clothes, Forest Gate 2 S.H. coats, Beverley 1 parcel S.H. clothes and games.

20th. Stepney £2 10s., Woodford 2s., Shenfield 5s., Folkestone 12s. 6d., Woodford 5s., Wingham 2s., Kensington 10s., Wandsworth Common 5s., with "Thank God we depend not on armies and navies for our supplies. A raven bringing bread and meat is better than aeroplane with bombs. My cordial greetings to all your devoted band of workers and God richly bless you all. Our united love to the 'family' of dear boys and girls. I enclose a little 'Valentine' for the funds and hope to do more next time."

24th. Leith £1 12s.

25th. London £5 with "Enclosed please find £5., to help to keep the pot a boiling... The Lord bless and keep you all." Stoke Newington 8s.

26th. Paddington 3s., with "We were holding a small meeting this afternoon, our Mothers, Christian Endeavour, and it suddenly came to us to make special mention of the Home at Woodford in our prayers, so we were praying for you all about 3.30 this afternoon, but before the meeting closed it was laid on our hearts that you were all in

special need, and we felt God was leading us to come to your aid. It was the wish of this little company of nine, that I send to you at once the enclosed gift of 3s. from our Sunshine box. It is not a big sum, but as we said would buy bread, and might be just the amount you needed. It is a real gift of the heart as the Mothers are very poor indeed, and we have a collection once a month for the Sunshine Work, and although the meeting is only a small one we each try to do our part (I speak on behalf of the Mothers). Praying for you still and sending you all Christian love." Ilford 14s., Leytonstone 5s.

MARCH.

1st. Limehouse 10s., Kensington 10s.

2nd. Anon. 5s., Bedford £1, Bowes Park 12s.

3rd. Clerkenwell 15s., Stratford £1.

4th. Kilburn £1, London £3, Isle of Wight £3 10s. 0d.

5th. Tooting £14s. 0d., Walthamstow £1, Woodford 2s., Walthamstow 3s.

6th. Plaistow £1.

8th. Kensington 10s., Barkway About 19lbs. salt beef and pork and piece of beef for Home Cot, Crofton Park 1 football.

9th. Woodford 5s. 8½d.

12th. Woodford 21 pots of marmalade, Woodford 3 prs. S.H. shoes.

13th. Woodford 2s., Woodford 17 pots marmalade, 6s., Willesden 8s., Kensington 10s., Limehouse 10s.

15th. Leytonstone 5s., Newick 1 skirt and blouse, 10s., 3s. 6d., Woodford 10s.

16th. Muswell Hill, 3 dressing gowns, 1 nightdress, 3 prs. knickers, 2 petticoats, 1 chemise, 1 pr. stays, 7 shirts, 1 dress, 1 tunic, 3 cot covers, 2 cot blankets, 4 cot sheets, 1 pr. shoes, 19 prs. stockings (new), 2 vests and 10s., Woodford 5s., Leytonstone 7s. 6d., Buckhurst Hill 10s., Woodford 1s. 6d.

18th. Woodford parcel of S.H. clothes, Westcliff 1lb. dripping.

19th. Folkestone 12s. 6d. We received a wire to-day for £2 together with Romans viii., 32.

20th. Woodford 5s., £1 3s. 4d. being amount placed in boxes at the door after a Drill Display by our children. Clerkenwell 15s., Woodford 2s. 6d., Stoke Newington 8s., Woodford 5s., Walthamstow ½ doz. collars 12 pocket handkerchiefs.

22nd. Puckeridge £1 1s., with "Thanks for Links; enclosed small thank offering cheque for nice little business and profitable chat in the train this week." Kensington 10s., Muswell Hill £1 (collected by a little boy specially for boots), Richmond 10s.

24th. Whittington £1., Woodford 6s.

29th. Woodford 5s., Tunbridge Wells £2 10s., Ilford 14s., Bembridge 10s., Codsall "Please accept small sum (10s.) for the help of your large family. Trusting God's richest blessing will attend you all." Lansdowne Sewing Circle, 12 boys' shirts, 8 nightdresses, 8 pinafores, 6 prs. quilted stays, 4 chemises, 4 prs. girls' knickers, 3 skirts, 3 pillow cases, 2 petticoats.

30th. Kensington 10s., Stroud Green "Please receive enclosed P.O. 2s. 6d. as a contribution towards your funds. He who careth for the sparrow will not forget the bairns under your care." Walthamstow 2s. 6d. with "Just a thankoffering for the little ones." Walthamstow £2 12s. 0d., Leytonstone 10s. 6d., Clerkenwell 5s., Forest Gate 10s. 6d., Muswell Hill "Was so sorry to see by the report the big deficits for the quarter between last year and this year's receipts—do trust it will soon be made up, if not happened already. Am sending a small Easter Offering—I would that it were more. After our own mission your good work lies nearest our hearts and we spare all we can towards the materials for garments etc. Am glad to say my little boy is beginning to take an interest in 'Mr. White's little boys' and asks Jesus to send them food etc. Psalm 121."

31st. Bedford £1, Stratford £1, Snaresbrook 5s., with "At last I am able to send you a trifle towards your good work. It has been upon my heart for some time past, and I am so glad to be able, I wish it were more. Thank you for 'Links' you send from time to time. My sympathy and prayers are with you and for you." Inasmuch 10s.

APRIL.

1st. Seven Kings Sewing Meeting, 5 nightdresses, 10 chemises, 10 prs. knickers, 8 petticoats, 6 bodices, 2 woollen vests, Forest Gate 12 prs. knickers.

3rd. Walthamstow £1, Limehouse 10s., Brighton "Enclosed please find 10s. (first fruits of an increase). If the times are serious, judging by the report you sent me, it does not affect your peace of mind. I should dearly love to visit your homes, but cannot see any possibility of doing so yet awhile. I

much appreciate the address on the Good Samaritan." Leith £2, Willesden 16s., Seven Kings 10s., Woodford 2s., Walthamstow 4s., Alresford Anon 5s., Clerkenwell 5s.

5th. Anon £25, with "Some time ago, I put aside the enclosed amount as the Lord's portion on account of a certain deal I carried through. Since then I have been waiting to know the mind of the Lord regarding its disposal. Last evening we had a little family conference (we have no secrets in our home) at which I proposed that this amount should be handed over to you, as being likely to show a bigger return (eternally) than anything else we had hitherto met with. This proposal met with unanimous approval. I am therefore asking you to accept it in the name of the Lord (it being in a special sense His), using it first to supply your own family and private needs, the remainder (if any) for the orphanage." Brighton £1 10s., £1, 8s. 6d.

6th. Walthamstow Sewing Class 1 jersey, 1 blouse, 3 dolls, 4 texts, 5 pinafores, 8 dresses, Limehouse 5s.

7th. Hertford "I am delighted to be able to send you our Good Friday Offering £9 18s. 6d.," Tooting £1 4s. 0d., Crewe 3s.

8th. Box of primroses and violets and 2 lbs. butter from a mother and her little girl (Anon.), Wanstead £2, Isle of Wight £6 7s. 6d.

9th. Woodford 10s., Twickenham "I have great pleasure in sending you my widow's mite again 1s. If God spare me I will think of you another year. My prayers shall be for the success of your good work and may God raise up many willing helpers." Plaistow £1.

10th. Willesden 10s., Anon 2s. 6d., Woodford 8s., Chingford 1s. 6½d., Shenfield 5s., Tunbridge Wells 8s. 5d.

12th. Wanstead 10s. with "Just a little help towards the funds of your big family—May your faith be such that you may realise afresh 'My God shall supply all your need,' more especially during these hard times." Finsbury Park 4 shirts, 4 prs. knickers, 3 chemises, 4 petticoats, 3 nightgowns, 4 dresses, 2 pinafores.

13th. Kensington £1, Hounslow 10s.

14th. Sturry 11s. 6d. with "I was pleased to receive report. The Lord has again laid it on my heart to send the enclosed 10s. and 1s. from another widow and 6d. from one I have met," Chigwell 12 lbs. marmalade.

15th. Kilburn £1, Woodford (Boot Club)

£1, Worcester 5s., Wood Green 10 petticoats, 3 prs. knickers.

16th. Parcel of S.H. clothes (Woodford).

17th. Willesden 10s., Folkestone 12s. 6d., Clerkenwell 10s., Woodford 5s.

19th. Woodford Parcel of S.H. clothes.

22nd. Brighton 11s., Stratford 5s., Clapton 1 large tin of cooked beef.

23rd. Pot of marmalade.

24th. Limehouse 10s., Clapton 4s., Paddington 3s. 6d., Ilford 14s., Woodford 3s., Willesden 10s., Woodford some pocket Handkerchiefs.

26th. Stratford £1, Stoke Newington 8s., Woodford 10s., Woodford £1 5s. 3d. (contents of a box), 1 pr. S.H. boots.

27th. Kensington 10s.

28th. Blackheath £3 18s. 0d.

29th. Seven Kings Parcel of S.H. clothes Woodford Parcel of S.H. clothes, Woodford 1 lb. of tea with "For Home Cot. May you get time for a chat and a cup of tea in the midst of all your work and busy thought—Do not trouble to acknowledge."

30th. Ilford £2 10s. 0d., Bedford £1, Limehouse 10s., Walthamstow £1, Woodford 5s., Kensington 10s., Isle of Wight 19s. 6d., Willesden 10s., Leytonstone 5s., Crofton Park "The enclosed 5s. is a Thank Offering to the Lord for your large family. I am not to be present on the 13th but sincerely hope and believe the Lord will bless the gatherings and fill you with Joy and Peace, while every need will be supplied. With hearty greetings in Christ Jesus." Woodford £1 5s. 0d.

Objects of the Work.

1. To receive destitute and motherless children.
2. To be the means in God's hands of bringing the children to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.
3. To prove that God is able to answer prayer by appealing to Him alone for funds.

THE NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SEVEN KINGS SEWING MEETING, 1914.

In presenting our Ninth Annual Report we rejoice to say we have had another good year's work, which has enabled us to substantially help our friends at the Home for Motherless Children at South Woodford.

We continue to hold our Meetings every Tuesday, from 3 to 6 p.m., and spend a very happy and helpful time together. The object of our work is to make garments for the children at the Home.

We feel very grateful to those friends who have come occasionally to speak and open up the word of God to us; this we feel is a mutual benefit to us all, for we cannot know too much of the dear Saviour who has done such great things for us.

We are specially pleased to see the friends and workers from the Home whenever they can spare the time to come; not only is it encouraging but it is an incentive to work

without growing weary.

During the year we have made 56 Pinafores, 37 Bloomers, 44 Flannel Vests, 6 Nightshirts; making a total of 143 garments, to which must be added 66 pairs of stockings, which have been purchased and sent on to the Home.

We trust that we may be enabled by God's help to continue this good work through the coming year, that the children whom He has given to the care of our friends at Woodford may not lack anything needful, in spite of the difficult times that have come upon us.

The balance sheet shows the

Income at	14	10	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Expenses at	10	1	8 $\frac{1}{2}$

Leaving a balance of	£4	8	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
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OUR FIFTEENTH BIRTHDAY.

FULL REPORT OF AFTERNOON MEETING.

Our fifteenth anniversary was celebrated on Thursday, May 13th, 1915, and though the weather was wet, a large number of friends assembled in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Hermon Hill, at both meetings.

The afternoon gathering was presided over by a new friend, the Rev. John Holyoak, B.A., the recently appointed vicar of the parish. The meeting opened with the singing of the hymn beginning:—

"Our God, our God, Thou shinest here,
Thine own this latter day,"

after which the Chairman offered prayer. Some of the children then sang the hymn, "The Lord be with us," under the direction of Mr. W. G. Fisher, after which the chairman called on Mr. Herbert White to speak about the work. Mr. White said:—

We are very glad that the Mr. WHITE'S opportunity of meeting in STATEMENT. this hall again has come round and we praise God both for those on the platform and for those who have come to listen. We have had a very peculiar year from many points of view. When we met here last year, nearly twelve months ago, we had no idea that we were to have such a terrific war waging at the time of our next meeting, but it is so and I feel that at the commencement of these services we ought not to forget those who are fighting our battles at the front. It has been my privilege to get about a good deal among the soldiers and God has been saving souls among the dear lads, many of whom have already given their lives for their country. We are very glad to have our friend, Mr. Holyoak, the new vicar of this parish for our chairman this afternoon. We pray that God may abundantly bless him in the new sphere to which he has been called. Then I am very delighted to see our old friend, Mr. Goodman, and we are most delighted to see our dear friend, Mrs. Barclay. Last year, we were very sorry indeed to get a wire from Mrs. Barclay to say that she was prevented from being with us and we have been praying ever since that God would keep Mrs. Barclay well in health so that she might be able to appear on our

platform this year. It is quite peculiar how many people have said to me to-day, "What a pity it's wet." But I say, and I say it quite reverently, God knows what He is about, and I feel sure we shall praise God whatever the weather is. We praise Him, those of us who are converted, that we are not creatures of circumstances, and whether it rains or snows or the sun shines, it makes no difference, for the well of joy is within. During the year, funds have been coming in very well, although we have had to face tremendous difficulties. As you can all guess, our liabilities have increased very greatly because of the War which is now raging. The price of commodities has gone up by leaps and bounds and of course many people have been giving to other funds. But, praise God, we depend not on individuals, and I am glad to be able to state, that while the income last year was £654 odd, the one just closed reached the total of £656. So we have not gone back so far as our income is concerned. But of course, our liabilities have increased, and I ought to say, in fairness, that there are some small accounts outstanding. Still, God will carry us through, "till He shall come." We have 64 children living now in the Home. A few boys have gone out to work and business and ten boys are in the Forces—five in the Navy and five in the Army—and if it is not our privilege to shoulder a musket, yet we do thank God that a little bit is being done through the work at Woodford. During the year we have received several new cases. Just to give you an idea of the cases we touch—some time ago we received a child from Muswell Hill. Its father we could not trace and its mother had eloped and left the child in charge of an old woman, who had to manage to subsist on the 5s. a week pension from the Government. She was paying 2s. for her room and had to keep herself and the child on the remaining 3s. Of course, it did not take us very long to decide that this was a case for us to take and we have the little girl with us this afternoon, looking happy and well. Then, a few weeks ago we received two boys from Stratford. The father was

dead—killed in some way—and the mother kept herself by charring, and we have eased her burden by taking the boys from her. She has still three others to provide for. Then we have another case in which the father was killed—in some yard at Tottenham, I think—and the mother had a stroke and is unable to work, and we have taken her little boy from her and he is now doing well. These are just samples—and I feel that you who know the blessings of home life will not fail to pray for God's blessing on this work. So far as finance is concerned, I want to tell you some of the answers to prayer which we have had. We were praying a short time ago one Saturday morning, that God would send us funds to carry us over the week-end, and about a quarter of an hour after we had risen from our knees, we heard a knock at the door, and when we went we found it was a telegraph boy with a telegram. And I said to my wife, "What's the matter now?" You see, I hadn't sufficient faith. Something was the matter, but very different from what I expected. When we opened the telegram we found that someone who lived 65 miles away from where we were praying had wired £5 for the Woodford work, for which we praise God. (Applause). Then, last Easter, we had been able to pay the King's Taxes but we hadn't anything with which to pay our quarter's rent. I had to go away in the country and when I left home I hadn't a penny piece towards the rent. But when I got to the place, a friend came up to me and said, "Glad to see you down here again. Here's a pound for your work." Then a young lady came to me and said, "Here's 8s. 6d. for the Home," and in the evening a friend gave me a cheque for thirty shillings in the name of the Lord. Another friend came up before the meeting was over and said, "Put this in your pocket and don't open it until you get back." When I did open it I found it was £25 in the name of the Lord. (Applause). We woke up this morning, and just to keep us from being pessimistic, by the first post there came from a friend many miles from here, £25 in the name of the Lord. (Applause). We praise Him to-day for the children—some of them that you see before you—and for the happy, contented state of them, and more because many of them are trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. We believe that this is not only work from the Christian

point of view, but work which helps the nation, and I firmly believe that if in this hour of turmoil, the people of this land would get on their knees and trust in God, He would do something worthy of His name and bring this terrible carnage to an end. I thank you for listening to me and ask you to pray for this work that God may bless it during the sixteenth year of its existence.

The Chairman said:—It is DOCTOR'S indeed very refreshing to be REPORT. here to hear how wonderfully prayer has been answered. I will now call on Mr. White to give us the report of the honorary medical officer, Dr. F. A. Martin Flegg.

Mr. White said: Dr. Flegg, dear friends, for whom we praise God, has been our honorary medical officer for nearly fifteen years, and we are very sorry he cannot come to-day. He has sent the following letter:—

"Southdene,"

The Shrubberies.

May 13th, 1915.

DEAR MR. WHITE,

I am very sorry to say that I am not well enough to attend the meeting this evening. I have contracted a bad cold, and can hardly speak. Kindly apologise for my non-attendance.

In my special department the work has been light during the past year, there having been little really serious illness. Altogether I consider the health of the children has been good, through God's blessing. I wish you a very happy meeting.

Sincerely yours,

F. A. MARTIN FLEGG.

The Chairman said:—I am sure we are all sorry Dr. Flegg cannot be here this afternoon. I am sure I am, personally, because I see before me so many people whom I don't know, and if Dr. Flegg had been here I should have felt quite at home, as he is my churchwarden. However, we are glad he is able to give such a splendid report.

WORDS FROM
"MOTHER."

The next speaker was the Home's "Mother," Miss R. A. Hutchin, who said: Christian Friends, I don't think there is much left for me to say. Mr. White has told you a good deal and you can read between the lines how wonderfully the Lord has provided for us. Still, I do like to

stand here, if it is only for a few minutes and thank all those friends who send us things from time to time, and not only who send things, but who help in other practical ways, this work. Mr. White has told you how the money comes in, but there are other ways in which much help is given to the Home. There are people who have looked over their wardrobes and have sent time and again things that have helped to clothe the children, and beyond that, we have four or five working parties that meet week by week, and beyond that we have private people who work at home and do not bother us for material or money, but who buy the material and make it up, so that we have new things to put on the children, which is a great help. Only mothers of large families know what it means to have a new garment ready for a child whenever it wants one. We do thank everyone of you here, who have had anything to do with this.

The infant girls then sang a pretty little action song, "How'd you like to be a little girl?", which was followed by another action song, "When tired with our lessons," by both little boys and girls. Then the senior girls, under Miss M. Hutchings, of Peel Road, gave a display of musical drill. Afterwards, the chairman called on "an old friend of the Home," Mr. George Goodman, to give an address. Mr. Goodman said:—

Mr. GOODMAN'S ADDRESS. Friends, I was asked by a friend as I was starting to come to this meeting, "What will

you say on such an occasion?" I thought that was a very good question, because when I look at the composite nature of my audience, what is one to say? I am glad I am not in the position of having to admit that I have nothing to say, because when I look at your faces, I feel I have something to say. I am grateful to God to hear of your success during the year and at a time when many charitable institutions have suffered, I believe it is a mark of God's favour, and I think the workers have every reason to be encouraged and to thank God for His favour. I want to speak with a double purpose. I want to say something which the children will understand and I want to say a word that will stir up the hearts of the older people here to think and pray for the children of this land, of whom the children here are a sample. So I want to take three scenes from Scripture, all having

to do with children. When Baker Pasha went down to Egypt to suppress the slave traffic, one of the features on which he reported as an indication of the great sadness prevailing, was that there were no children to be seen. The slave traders had been and swept away all the children. And in this country, though we are still in the midst of a most terrible war, still our streets are full of children and our hearts go out in joy to see them. There are three scenes in Scripture which refer to children in the streets of the City, the great City of Jerusalem. The first is in Lamentations, ii, 19: "Arise, cry out in the night; in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord; lift up thy hands toward Him for the life of thy young children that faint for hunger in the top of every street." You remember that the city had been destroyed and the chiefs of the people had been carried away into Babylon. The Prophet's heart is touched, it seems, not so much with the ruin of the houses or even of the great Temple itself, but his heart is troubled as he thinks of the children in the streets. So we have the picture of desolation in the absence of the children. Thank God we have no such state of things in England. The children are in the midst of the towns and villages of England to-day and thank God we have been saved from such scenes as the streets of the cities of Belgium have witnessed. We know that the scene pictured by the Prophet was a scene of judgment. It was because of the nation's sin that things had come to such a pass that the children should be crying for hunger in the streets. And you know, one looks down the streets of our city and sees thousands of boys and girls and one hears the cry of the children, not for bread, not for clothes only, but there is still the cry of the children for the Bread of Life and many of the dear children of our land are fainting with hunger, not for natural bread, but for the Bread of Life. We have to ask ourselves in this land of ours, How are we dealing with the children? Are the children of the present generation getting the Word of Life as truthfully, as faithfully, as sincerely as they were 100 or 200 years ago? Is there the same proportion of children in our Sunday Schools, according to the population, as there was 100 years ago? These are solemn questions. Is the cry getting stronger and are people settling down com-

fortably in their homes, in their "sealed houses" as the Prophet says, and getting careless of the cry of the children? There are many things in relation to children that strike you very forcibly. One is the rapidity with which a child grows up. How long is a child a child? Have you ever thought of it? You must not count the first few years, because it is but a babe then. But when that babe becomes a child and the formation of habits and character begin, how long is it—ten years? We can hardly believe that the childhood of our lives is so brief a span. Yet in that short time so much is done. Oh, how we need to be up and doing. I remember once reading of a mother who wrote in her diary, of her son, "While I was forgetful and thought him still a child, he had become a man." In a moment it flashed upon her that it was too late. He was a man. And as I look upon a great gathering of children, as is so often my privilege, my heart says to me, "You have before you a number of future drunkards, you have before you a number who will throw away all that is noble in life." Oh, in these few years to hear the cry of the children that faint with hunger and do cry at the top of the streets! Suppose an angel were to come here and stand beside me on the platform and were to say, "I will point out one who will be a murderer" and suppose that finger were to point to one child, how should I feel? I should feel I must leave the platform, I must go and sit beside that child and plead beside that child for his soul, that he might seek the One who can save. Yet these things are true. Are you doing anything? Are you teaching in the Sunday School? Are you denying yourself the comfort of your home for one afternoon a week so that you may meet the cry of the children? That old scene of the ruined city has its parallel to-day. Now, in the second picture we see the city again, the same great city, but rebuilt. Its Temple, too, is rebuilt in the glory of the past. We see the streets crowded with people and a procession comes along. Someone is riding on the foal of an ass. And the people tear off branches from the trees and spread their garments in the way and the children shout, "Hosanna to the son of David, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." They go into the Temple and the people are so happy that they forget that they are in the sacred pre-

sents of the Temple—and a good thing too—and they shout, "Hosanna" in the great courtyard of the Temple and as the Lord enters the priests turn to Him and say, "Do you hear what they are saying?" And the Lord, glad that they have given Him such a welcome, says, "Yes, I hear them and if they were to stop, the very stones would cry out." And He adds something else. He says, "Have you never read, don't you know, that the Holy Ghost many years ago inspired in Scripture these words, 'Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings I have perfected praise'?" And so, the second picture is of children welcoming the Saviour.

Now children look. Jesus Christ was pleased when those children welcomed Him and He will be glad if you will welcome Him to your hearts and souls. I am glad to know that many of you are trusting the Saviour. We praise God more for that than that you are well fed and well clothed. It is a greater blessing. The Saviour taught that the little ones could glorify Him. There is nothing in Scripture that corresponds with what one sometimes hears, "Oh, they are only little kids." No, He says, "Out of their mouth I can have glory." You can glorify God, you can live to give glory to God if your heart is trustful, if it is clean, if it is true. God will be well pleased, for out of the mouths of babes and sucklings He has perfected praise. Then Jesus told the older people that they must have the spirit of little children, the spirit of lowly trust attending on their Lord. I remember once having a mission for children in a very poor part and I went home one night to supper with a gentleman whom I will describe as "a worldly man." And we were talking about the work when in connection with some remark he said, "Oh, you mean the riff-raff." And a lady at the table—a truly Christian, beautiful soul—said gently, "No, those for whom Christ died." I thought the rebuke a good one, for He has said, "Take heed that ye rebuke not one of these little ones." Thank God for the children welcoming the Saviour in the streets. The last of my three pictures is in Zechariah, "The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof." Most of you know that this is the only time "boys and girls" occurs in the Bible. Now, Zechariah was the Prophet of the Restoration and he was looking forward to the