

The Home for Destitute and Motherless Children,

(UNSECTARIAN)

CRESCENT ROAD EAST, SOUTH WOODFORD.

Dr. F. A. MARTIN FLEGG,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Southdene, George Lane,
Hon. Medical Officer.

FOUNDED
1899.

Mr. A. WILLMOTT,
Chartered Accountant,
14, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C.,
Hon. Auditor.

Miss R. A. HUTCHIN, *Matron.*

Mr. H. W. WHITE, *Hon. Director.*

1st May, 1906.

DEAR FRIENDS,

The sixth year in the history of the above, which has just drawn to a close has been full of interesting events, and we are glad to again be able to bring to the notice of our friends the remarkable way in which God has answered prayer, not in one direction only, but as will be seen by the report from all points of view. Not that we have been exempt from testings and trials, for these at times we certainly have had, but even for these we praise God, as they have been the means of proving, without question, the truth of His word, which says, "That all things work together for good," etc. (Rom. viii., 28); and also of revealing to us our utter helplessness apart from Him and our absolute dependence upon Him.

The following is the account (as promised in last report) copied from the Woodford papers respecting opening of our new buildings on May 8th, last year:—

"On Monday afternoon last the large room of the new wing which has recently been added to the Home for Destitute and Motherless children in Crescent Road, East, South Woodford, was crowded to its utmost capacity by neighbours and friends interested in the work. The chair was taken by the Rev. J. T. Inskip, M.A., Vicar of Leyton, who was supported by Dr. and Mrs. Flegg, Mrs. Charles Barclay, Miss E. L. Fowler, Mr. H. W. White, and others.

"The new buildings which have recently been erected adjoining the old premises in which the work has lately been carried on, are in every way well adapted for their purpose, the rooms being large and airy, and conveniently planned. At the back is a large piece of land of between three and four acres, part of which will be used for growing vegetables, etc., while the remainder will be laid out as a playground. The proceedings having been opened with the singing of a hymn and prayer, the Chairman said he was pleased to come and shew his interest in this Home, which was being conducted on the same lines as Müller's Homes at Bristol. One could not help realizing how very great was the need of the work, that they were inaugurating afresh that afternoon; how many sad hearts and lives there were among the little ones who they felt ought to know something of the happiness and brightness of life during their childhood. They rejoiced in this work because they felt it was a Christlike work. Both for the believer and the outsider, it had a value of its own, in that it was based on the principle of faith. There was no elaborate canvassing or appealing for funds, or anything substantial to rely upon except God, to whom they looked day by day for their daily needs. Like Mr. Müller, Mr. White could say, 'Hitherto hath the Lord not failed us.' If there was need for further extension, they would not be anxious about the ways and means as they realized that the same God who bade them go forward would also supply what was necessary. Such a work as they were engaged in there was an answer to the question as to whether, when the Master came, He would find faith amongst His own people; and when outsiders were asking whether there was anything in the Gospel of Christ, such Homes as these, where God's people were conducting work on faith lines, could be pointed to as object lessons. This alone presented a problem for the unbeliever, and propounded a question which it would be very difficult for him to answer. The difficulties of belief might be great, but the difficulties of unbelief were far greater. To believers such a work as that helped to confirm their faith, and to the unbeliever and man of the world it shewed what God could accomplish. Although that work was only a small work, they were not to think the less of it on that account. Large Institutions like Müller's Homes and Dr. Barnardo's Homes had small beginnings, but whether this work remained a small one or grew to larger dimensions, its character would be the same. He thought they should set no limit as to what God would accomplish through them, but be ever ready to follow along the road whither he was leading. The children who were brought up in that Home would go forth into the world with a knowledge of what faith in Jesus Christ could do. In conclusion, the Chairman said he was glad to be able to stretch out a helping hand to those engaged in this work. He had received a letter from the Vicar of that parish, Dr. Smythe Palmer, speaking in very cordial tones of Mr. White and his work. Mr. White had just entered the bonds of holy matrimony, and he was sure all present would unite with him in wishing Mr. and Mrs. White every happiness in their life, and every blessing in their work.

"Miss Hutchin, one of the Founders of the Home, gave a brief and interesting account of how she was led to take up this particular work. Being anxious to do some definite work for her Master, she sought Divine guidance, and was eventually led to take charge of a child who had no mother, and whose father had deserted it. Soon after, another child was added, when a small cottage was taken in Latchett Road, and by the end of the first year the number had increased to six. During this time the donations contributed by friends went to pay the rent, rates, &c., and that she supported herself and children by her earnings at dressmaking. From this time each year marked further progress in the work.

"Mr. H. W. White gave a somewhat detailed account of the way in which he was led to take up and carry on the work of the Home. During the early part of 1899, he had a great desire to work for God in the Foreign Mission field, but failing to find an opening, he began to think what he could do for the poor neglected children of the slums, towards whom his heart had always yearned. About the end of 1899 he was brought into contact with Miss Hutchin, and although he did not know what she had in

