

The Orphans' Friend.

FRIDAY, --- NOVEMBER 9, 1883.

READ THIS CAREFULLY.

Last week we tried to tell the public how to be helpful to orphans. The leading idea of that article was that the cause of indigent orphanage could be best promoted by sustaining the Orphan Asylum. But there is one item that we purposely left to be noticed in a separate article, because it could thus receive greater prominence. Not the least important means to be adopted to help the Asylum is to give greater circulation to the FRIEND. It is the organ of its interests. While the Asylum assumes none of the risks of publication, it receives promptly a large share of the receipts; and it thus receives direct pecuniary aid from every subscriber to the paper. But we believe that the greatest benefit it derives is from the influences generated and fostered by the paper, over the minds and hearts of its patrons. Wherever the paper circulates freely the people may be expected to contribute liberally. We therefore ask our friends to interest themselves to increase our circulation. The session of the Grand Lodge will soon be held. We desire to make the best possible showing. While we enjoy a good circulation, it is not commensurate with the importance of the interests we represent. If each subscriber will take sufficient interest in this matter to secure an additional subscriber in the next month it will do great good.

ADOPTING AN ORPHAN AND WHAT CAME OF IT.

A short time since we chanced to stay all night with a family into which an infant orphan had been taken for the purpose of raising it. The little waif caused an amount of toil, watchfulness and sleeplessness in that household, but the good woman devoted herself assiduously to her heaven-imposed task, assisted by her kind husband. The inquiry was made, "Will it pay?" Perhaps the kind woman never asked such a mercenary question. Her efforts were prompted by higher motives. The love of humanity, akin to that which prompted God to give his Son to the world, is sufficient incentive in such a work. But that they who labor in this field may expect a harvest is amply shown by the following scrap of history.

A child in the far East was deprived of death of her parents. She was called Hadassah, (Myrtle.) A kinsman took her and brought her up as if she were his own. This kinsman held some petty office in the palace of the King. Little Hadassah grew into a beautiful and accomplished woman. The King who was in search of a wife, was attracted by her great beauty, she was taken into the royal household and finally became the Queen. She was now called Esther,

(Star.) But in her elevation she did not forget the kind friend who had taken her, when a helpless orphan, into his own family. Learning that he was in distress she made inquiry concerning it and found that he and all his people were about to be put to death, through the machinations of a very wicked yet influential courtier. Now it came her turn to serve her benefactor, and nobly did she respond to the call of duty. It involved a risk of her life; for if any one went in the King's presence unbidden there was a law that such a one should suffer death, unless the King held out the golden sceptre. But in view of the interests involved she determined to risk it, saying, "If I perish, I perish." She was thus successful in rescuing her kinsmen from treated danger and in causing the disgrace and punishment of their enemies. If you want to read the details of this interesting story you will find them recorded in the Bible--in the book of Esther. Let all the friends of orphans be encouraged thereby to pursue their work with diligence.

REPORT OF FRED. H. WINES, SECRETARY.

To the Illinois State Board of Public Charities Respecting the 10th Annual Session of the National Conference of Charities, at Louisville, Ky., Sept. 24-28, 1883.

GENTLEMEN:

I have the honor and pleasure of making the following report of my attendance upon the annual meeting of the Conference of Charities and Correction, which was in session at Louisville, from the 24th to the 28th of September. During the greater part of this time, the president of the board, Dr. J. C. Corbus and Mr. Whipp, my assistant in the office, were also present.

In several respects this has been the most interesting meeting which we have held, thus far. At Chicago, in 1879, there were but twelve States represented; at Cleveland sixteen; at Boston, including the district of Columbia, there were nineteen; at Wisconsin twenty-four; but at Louisville thirty-three. We went there in hope of securing a full representation from the States south of the Ohio river, and in this we were successful. I think too, that these States will send delegates regularly hereafter. The number of delegates in attendance at Louisville was unusually large; it could not have been much if any less than two hundred persons from outside the bounds of Kentucky, and with the Kentuckians it probably reached three hundred. The personnel of the Conference was never finer than this year, nor the papers read better worth attention, nor the discussions freer from irrelevance and crudity of thought. Every moment of our time was occupied with the business of the session which went forward rapidly and logically to its conclusion, and all who were there seemed to be satisfied with the result. From the people of Louisville and from the State officers of Kentucky we received every attention that we could have desired. I only regret that more of our own board could not have been there.

MONDAY.

We met on Monday, in the evening, when addresses of welcome were made by Mayor Jacob, Gov. Knott, and Senator Williams, which were responded to by Messrs. Sanborn, of Massachusetts; Vaux, of Pennsylvania; Mills, of North Carolina, and Knapp, of Florida.

My address, as president, was devoted to an exposition of our position and function as an organization apparently destined to exert considerable influence upon legislation and the future of charitable and correctional work in the United States.

TUESDAY.

Tuesday morning was devoted to hearing reports from the various States represented. There were so many of these, and the reports made were so unnecessarily long and minute, that the Conference was unable, during the four days that we were together, to hear from more than a part of them but leave was given to any State not heard to file a written report for publication in the proceedings. The ex-

perience of this year led to the formation of a standing committee on Reports from States, whose duty it will be, to see that reports are made in writing, and as far as possible, placed in the hands of the committee at least one month in advance of our next meeting, so that the committee can prepare a summary of whatever is most interesting and important in them. This will not prevent the presentation of the reports separately, in addition.

We had two admirable reports on this day from the standing committees on the Work of State Boards of Charity, by Bishop Gillespie, and on Charity Organization in Cities, by Mr. McCulloch. Special prominence was given to the latter topic, which was discussed both in the afternoon and at night. Among those who participated in the debate, were: Messrs. Putnam, of Boston, Fairchild of New York, Walk and Garret, of Philadelphia, Elliott and Barbour, of Detroit, Shattuck, of Cincinnati, and Mrs. Spencer of Washington.

An interesting feature of the meeting on Tuesday was the address of Senator Vance, of North Carolina. The Conference listened with marked satisfaction, also to the addresses made by Rt. Rev. Father Bessonles, of Indiana, and Bishop Robertson, of Missouri.

WEDNESDAY.

Wednesday was given up to the consideration of the prison question. The standing committee on Crimes and Penalties reported, by its chairman, Mr. Z. R. Brockway, superintendent of the Reformatory at Elmira, New York, the only prison in the United States from which convicts are released on ticket-of-leave. Mr. Brockway's reputation as an able writer on this subject, as well as a most successful prison officer, is well known to you but it seemed to me that in this report he surpassed anything which he has previously made public. The programme arranged by him for the day was very full, and included papers of Judge Young, of the supreme court by Minnesota, on the Reformatory Idea in Penal Treatment; by Miss Hall, of the Woman's Prison, at Adrian, Michigan, on the Reformation of Criminal Girls; by Miss Mosher, formerly of the Woman's Prison at Sherborn, Massachusetts, on Discipline Prisons; by Gen. Brinkerhoff, of Ohio, on what he called "Post-Penitentiary Treatment of criminals," that is to say, on police supervision of prisoners after their discharge; and by Judge Henry, of the supreme court of Missouri, on Aid to Discharged Criminals. There was not as much time for discussion of these valuable essays as many desired, and some prison officers who were present, among whom I may mention Col. Lipscomb, of the South Carolina penitentiary, were not heard, which was the occasion of considerable regret.

Mrs. Barney, of Rhode Island, gave us a brief account of the efforts made by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union to have female matrons appointed at the central police stations in cities.

Gov. Blackburn, of Kentucky, made an earnest and feeling speech, in which he pledged himself to devote himself for the remainder of his life to the cause of prison reform.

Other speakers were: Mr. Wilson, of Missouri, Gen. Taylor (a nephew of President Taylor), chief of police in the city of Louisville, Dr. Morris of Baltimore, Dr. Caldwell of Philadelphia, Richard Vaux, Mr. Cobb of Milwaukee, Mrs. Beveridge, of Chicago, and some whose names I cannot at this moment re-call.

But all will agree, I think, that the culminating point of interest was reached, when in the evening, Mr. George W. Cable, of New Orleans, the famous novelist, rose to read his carefully prepared attack upon the lease prison system, as administered at the South. For more than two hours he held his audience as if under a spell, while he quoted from official reports of Southern prison officers and lessees, and drew from them inferences which, if they bear the test of examination, must when they attract the notice of the Southern people, result in the abolition of the abuses which he depicted. When he took his seat, no one offered any defence of the system, but Gen. Anderson, of Kentucky, thrilled us by a fiery speech, denouncing the wrongs perpetrated under it. Both Mr. Cable and Gen. Anderson were loudly applauded. It is said that Mr. Cable's article is to appear in the North American Review.

THURSDAY.

The Department of Justice sent a representative to the Louisville meeting, Mr. Haight, inspector of prisons in which United States prisoners are confined. There not having been time to hear him on Wednesday evening, he read, on Thursday morning, a brief but interesting account of the relation of the national government to the prisoners of the country.

Dr. Bell, of Louisville, was introduced and spoke eloquently of the pleasure and advantage which our meeting had been to the people of the city and the State, and the influence which it would exert in the South.

Then followed a remarkable address by Rabbi Somochein, of St. Louis, on Hebrew Charity in the Middle Ages, delivered with great animation and enthusiastically applauded, especially the happy allusions made by him to Christianity, and his definition of Charity as justice, the repayment of a gift.

The report of the standing committee on Preventive Work Among Children was read by the chairman, followed by a brief report by Mr. Coffin, of Indiana, on the International Congress at Paris composed of representatives of institutions and associations interested in child-saving. Judge Ferris, of Nashville, Tennessee, gave an account of his own extraordinary success in Placing Destitute and Homeless Children in Private Families, and Judge Lewis, also of Tennessee, read a paper entitled Industrial School Work. The session was closed by a paper from Mr. Letchworth, of New York, on the Classification and Industrial Employment of Destitute and Delinquent Children.

We spent the afternoon and evening at the House of Refuge, by invitation of the managers, who provided an elegant supper. We were invited, on the same evening, to the Central Lunatic Asylum, at Annapolis, and a part of the members went there, where they were equally hospitably entertained. The House of Refuge, under the superintendence of Mr. Caldwell, has reached a high point of excellence, and perhaps has no superior in this country, in many of the most important elements of successful reformatory work. The children were all assembled in the chapel, and were talked to, Mr. Mills, of North Carolina, bearing off the honors of the occasion by his quaint remarks on "the all important subject of tar." The evening was spent in listening to accounts of reformatory institutions in New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, in which Messrs. Fulton, Fay, Collins, Watson, Cooley, Douglass, and others participated. There was not nearly time enough for all who had something to say, and the officers of reformatory institutions, of whom quite a number were present, organized themselves into a section on the following day, for the completion of the discussion.

FRIDAY.

Friday was a field-day, when all that had been overlooked or postponed found place. The first topic considered was the Care of the Chronic Insane, which was treated by Dr. Gardner, of the Illinois Southern Hospital for the Insane, at Anna. Among those who were remarked on Dr. Gardner's paper were Dr. Bryce, of Alabama, and Dr. Griffin, of South Carolina.

Dr. Isaac D. Peet, the eminent principal of the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, read a paper on the Education of Deaf Mutes. It happened that there were a good many teachers of the deaf present, from Ohio, Nebraska, Georgia, South Carolina, and elsewhere, and they, under the lead of Mr. Noyes, chairman of the standing committee on this subject, discussed Dr. Peet's paper. The statement of Mr. Gillespie with regard to the training of the ear by the use of the audiophone, awakened so much interest, that the medical men present took it up, and Dr. Coomes, of Louisville, described a novel instrument for testing the degree of sensibility in the auditory nerve by the aid of the microphone.

Dr. Walk, chairman of the standing committee on Preventive Medical Charities, read his report, which was accompanied by a paper on First Aid to the Injured, by Mr. Pine, of New York.

The last paper read was by Dr. Dewey, of Kankakee, on Building Plans for Public Institutions, concerning which it would have been appropriate to quote the Latin proverb, *Finis coronat opus*.

At the night session we listened to several admirable farewell speeches, three of which were by gentlemen of Louisville, namely: Mr. Caldwell, Congressman Willis, and the venerable Judge Bullock, who still retains his power to charm his hearers. The customary resolutions of thanks were adopted, some items of unfinished business were attended to, and the Conference adjourned.

ORGANIZATION.

St. Louis was chosen as the place of the next meeting. Mr. Letchworth of New York, was elected President for the ensuing year, and Bishop Robertson, of Missouri, vice-president. Some changes were made in the list of corresponding secretaries, which was very much enlarged. Mr. Wright, of Wisconsin, retains his place as recording secretary; Mr. Milligan, of Pennsylvania, is promoted to be honorary secretary, in the place of Mr. Sanborn; and the regular secretaries chosen are Dr. Hoyt, of New York, Mr. Caldwell, of Kentucky, and Mr. Hart, of Minnesota.

All of which is respectfully submitted, FRED. H. WINES, Secretary.

Mr. VanBuren, late President of the United States, in 1849, when writing for a fresh supply of Beckwith's Anti-Dyspeptic pills, says: "They have now for eight years saved me from the necessity of employing a physician on a single occasion," and when writing from Rome for a fresh supply, says: "I cannot trust myself anywhere without them."

FALL and WINTER

1883.

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