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TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

BOARDING OUT SYSTEM.

EXTRACTS FROM A WORK BY FLORENCE HILL, ENTITLED
"CHILDREN OF THE STATE."

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EXTRACTS from a Work by FLORENCE HILL, entitled "Children of the State," in reference to the Boarding-out System.

THE "NORWICH HOMES."

AN article in the *Friend of the People*,^a entitled "Prevention better than Reformation," quoting the startling fact that in one penitentiary in Bristol there had recently been found twenty inmates who had been brought up in workhouses, and urging Poor Law Guardians to pursue a different mode of education for pauper children than that which, in the words of a constant visitor to the London prisons, "only trains up and turns out victims for the streets and inmates for the gaols," called forth two letters^b from the Rev. P. U. Brown, Chaplain of the Norwich workhouse, in which he described the course adopted by that Board. In 1845, the guardians, impressed with the evils to which the children were exposed in their workhouse (since rebuilt), a medieval building, ill adapted to its modern use, and in which classification was impossible, removed (at the suggestion, we believe, of their medical officer, Mr. Johnson) a few of the elder boys to a separate house, where they lodged under the care of the schoolmaster, while they worked for various employers in the city. Their board and clothing continued to be provided by the guardians, who in return received their wages. The feeling that they had *money worth* proved morally invigorating to the lads; while the arrangement scattered them among the industrial population, so that, when they grew up and left the Home, they had already gained a position in the world. The marked improvement in these lads led the guardians in 1850 to remove the elder girls to a similar home outside the city, where industrial training is made the chief object. In 1853 the school boys were likewise taken out of the workhouse, and located with those earning wages, in a convenient building; and from that date only casual girls and infants have been retained in the house. In reporting upon the Homes in 1855, Mr. Bowyer, School Inspector, stated that while the Norwich workhouse had been "to the children especially inevitable ruin," the condition of these was now as high above as it was previously below that of the corresponding classes in other Unions." But great difficulties had been encountered. The boys at first stole everything they could lay their hands upon in the garden and orchard; yet the effect of a mode of life appealing constantly to their better feelings was such, that honesty in the minutest details became the rule, and they declared they would not have a thief among them "to disgrace the Home." "A forcible instance of the beneficial influence which the home-life exercises upon the boys' character is seen in the intercourse which exists between them and the master's daughter, who assists her father in the day and evening school, accompanies them to church, &c., and takes a great share in the arrangements for their domestic comfort. She is a gentle, intelligent girl, about sixteen years of age, and rules these once rude, coarse, uncontrollable boys with a silken cord. Nor ought this to be looked upon as an adventitious circumstance. The mental elevation or degradation of both sexes is chiefly dependent upon early impressions, and therefore in all legislation for the training of boys of whatever class, the value of a pure, righteous, and judicious intercourse with women, both old and young, should be recognised, and as far as possible provided for. The worst form of pauperism exists in the offspring of depravity; but boys accustomed to depend upon the care and kindness of pure-minded women for their daily comforts, are soon brought to value the decencies of life, and to respect and imitate those who practise them."^c

The results of these *Preventatories*, to use the apt designation employed by Mr. Brown, are thus stated by him:—"After fifteen years' experience, of the boys' home, of 125 lads placed out from it nine had died, one was idiotic, one had emigrated, sixteen had been lost sight of, but ninety-eight were known to be in respectable employment, and some of them in a comparatively high social position. Of eighty girls discharged during ten years from the Home but twelve had at any time re-entered the workhouse, and of these only six were permanent paupers, one of them being a lunatic, and one afflicted with epilepsy. Of the remaining sixty-eight all were in service or other employment, or married or living with their parents, except three who had turned out badly." Let us contrast this return with that of those other eighty girls from a London workhouse, *all* of whom were found to be on the streets!

Pecuniarily the success was not inferior. The annual average cost of an inmate of Norwich workhouse was £12 16s. 8½d. In the Girls' Home it was £12 12s. 2½d.; while the wages earned by the elder

^a March 17, 1860.

^b Ibid, April 14 and May 5, 1860.

^c "Norwich Pauper Homes," by the Chaplain. *Workhouse Visiting Journal*, July, 1860.

boys, amounting to considerably more than £100 a year, brought down the average cost per head in their Home to £10 19s. 1½d. The whole saving on the workhouse rate during the five years ending 1859 was £629 18s. 4d.

Strange to say, in the face of results so satisfactory, a rumour went abroad that the Homes were to be closed, and subsequently it was generally believed this unmerited fate had befallen them. In March of the present year, however, we rejoiced to learn from the Rev. Henry Symonds, of Norwich, that they are still flourishing. Each, he informs us, will contain 40 inmates, restricted to orphans or deserted children, in receipt of parish relief, but not necessarily having entered the work-house; they are admitted between the ages of eight and twelve, and remain until they are fifteen. Many of the boys after their departure correspond with the master. They are regarded favourably in the city, and a large proportion do well. The children having parents in the workhouse, and infants of all classes, are still retained there.

Of the girls further information has been kindly communicated by the matron who prepared the Home for its inmates in 1850, and has remained ever since at its head. Since 1860 (to which date Mr. Brown's narrative comes down) eighty-six girls have been admitted, of whom thirty-seven are now inmates. Of the rest, four (afflicted when they came) returned to the workhouse from ill health; two have died; three, whose conduct was unsatisfactory, have re-entered the workhouse of their own accord, and have proved thoroughly bad. The remaining thirty-nine are doing well; thus, in ten years, the total of moral failures has been four. Situations with superior employers are readily found, and, with the matron's aid, children changing their places usually pass direct from one to another; but, in case of an interval occurring, they are, if respectable in character, permitted to spend it at the Home. The girls at service in the City the matron occasionally visits, and with those at a distance she corresponds. No servant is kept in the Home, the girls doing the whole of the house-work. They knit their stockings, cut out, make, and mend their clothes, and also receive daily three hours' school instruction. The evening affords time for harmless recreation, which probably has no less wholesome an effect than the busy occupation of the day.

INDUSTRIAL HOMES.

THE friendless position of orphans in workhouses has suggested the establishment of small Industrial Homes for their reception in various parts of the country. The first of these was founded by Mrs. Way at Brockham (near the Betchworth Station, on the South-eastern Railway) in Surrey. It has been fully described, and with strong commendation, in various periodicals, among which may be mentioned the *Friend of the People*, *All the Year Round* for October 1862, and *The Monthly Packet* for February, 1867; and Annual Reports are issued, the candid tone of which, neither under-rating difficulties nor over-estimating success, carries conviction of the wisdom of the managers. Its purpose is so to train orphan girls dependent on parochial relief, as to fit them to earn their livelihood in respectable service; and almost all its inmates have been the legitimate children of industrious parents, who had maintained them by their labour during their lives. The demand for good servants is ever increasing, while the supply, from various causes, diminishes. Mr. Stephen Cave, alluding to this fact at one of the annual meetings of the institution, said he had recently heard of an application from one of the colonies for cooks being forwarded to Cornwall whence servants were generally procured, to which the answer was, "Cooks! we could as easily send elephants!"

Mrs. Way lays great stress on the boon to be conferred on employers as well as on the poor children themselves, by converting them into skilful servants. With this view, she has them prepared to take the places of under-house and lady's-maids, laundry-maids, and kitchen-maids, and then, as far as possible, selects for them service in a household whose mistress will care for their moral welfare, and in which they will be under a respectable head servant in their several departments, so that they become, in time, competent to fill superior places themselves. True, there is usually an ample demand for girls even taken directly from the workhouse, but generally it is to be the over-worked drudge of an over-worked mistress, who has neither time nor knowledge to instruct her little maid-of-all-work, nor thought to spare for keeping her out of temptation, or counselling her in any moral difficulty. Nor should it be concealed that these friendless girls, about whom enquiry is unlikely to be made, are not infrequently sought for the worst purposes—disguised, indeed, under the offer of domestic service.

Mrs. Way's Home was opened on the 1st Feb., 1859, on a very small scale; namely, with two girls, in a cottage containing six rooms. Soon afterwards, to enable guardians to pay for the children they sent thither, it was certified under the Industrial Schools Act; but this, among several inconveniences, gave it, in some degree, the character of a reformatory institution, which it was desirable to avoid; and Mrs. Way exerted herself to obtain an Act under which her own and similar institutions could be certified by the Poor Law Board, and voluntary and parochial aid be thus harmoniously combined. This she accomplished in 1862, when the Pauper Education Bill having been brought into the House of Commons by Sir Stafford Northcote, and carried through the Upper House by Lord Devon, became law, and is technically known as the 25 and 26 Vict. Cap. 43.

The Brockham Home, with its new certificate, has increased in usefulness, and from the last Report we learn that "88 girls have been admitted, the greater number of whom are now useful members of society, as domestic servants, giving satisfaction to their employers." Of these, five are earning from £12 to £18 a year; and of thirty-three the wages vary from £6 to £12. They are thoroughly unpauperized; so much so, that it is not known to their fellow-servants that they were ever dependent on the parish. Some of them, indeed, were sent by the guardians direct to Brockham Home on the death of their parents, and thus did not even enter the workhouse. Of the others, the characteristics too often are dulness of

apprehension, ill-temper; a want of self-respect, and negligence as regards the care of property,—the usual and, perhaps, inevitable consequences of ordinary workhouse life. But these faults yield before individual treatment, the pleasures and duties of family life, (for it is a leading object to render the institution a home in truth as well as in name); and still more, under the genial influence of strong personal attachment towards the ladies who devote their time to the institution, and especially to one not far removed in age from the girls themselves.

The number in the Home seldom much exceeds twenty. The age at which the children were first received was twelve and upwards; Mrs. Way has, however, found it expedient to reduce it to eleven. They remain two or three years under training; and the annual cost per head is £17. Washing and sewing are taken in, and some money is earned by bread and cake making. In winter, soup also is made for sale at a low price to the neighbouring poor.

A savings bank has been established for the deposits of the young people in service, and a very considerable sum is accumulating there. To a department for the reception of the girls, (under twenty years of age), when ill or out of place,—unless for serious faults, in which case they are otherwise provided for—Mrs. Way attributes even more importance than to the training given in the Home. A cottage near to it is appropriated to this purpose, and has proved an unspeakable blessing to those it shelters; a shilling a week is all they pay for their accommodation.

Although it does not suit the character of the Home to receive pupils under eleven, experience has shown the importance of removing them from the workhouse at a much earlier age; and *Nursery Homes*, Mrs. Way suggests, might easily be set on foot in connexion with village schools; the guardians, we presume, contributing to the support of the children.

A lady who has founded a Home in Wiltshire, similar to that at Brockham, describes its origin in these words,—“A little girl, previously known to me as having been brought up in the workhouse school, one day ran after me in the street, crying out, ‘Please ma’am, will you send me to the Penitentiary.’ I knew *that* was not the place for her, poor child; she was not a lost one, although, in all probability, she would soon become, like too many of her fellow-paupers, ruined for want of proper care and protection. To find a safe refuge where she would be kindly treated was the only idea of the poor child. I made inquiries into her story, and ascertained that it was true; she had been obliged to leave the wretched situation she was in as maid-of-all-work from the unkind treatment she had received; she had no clothes but those she had on, which were threadbare and ragged; she was an orphan, and had no home to turn to, no friend to care for her! This appeal, with the knowledge that there were others in similar circumstances, made me anxious that some effort should be made to aid such helpless ones, and the result was that, before long, a Home was opened into which this poor girl was received, with three others.”

This was in 1860. The children are generally admitted when twelve or thirteen, and many remain until their sixteenth year. They are instructed in different branches of domestic work, and most who have been placed out are good and steady servants. They maintain frequent intercourse with the Home by correspondence and occasional visits. The anniversary of its opening is made a happy holiday, and an address upon that occasion from the clergyman to whom the girls owe their religious instruction, is found to impress their minds beneficially. The cost of the institution is moderate, and a portion of the children’s maintenance is defrayed by payments from guardians. The whole expenditure for the first six years of its existence, including furniture (but not the price of the dwelling, which was a gift), was under £796; and taking the annual expenditure of the last four years, with an average attendance of ten girls, the cost, per head, is under £14, of which more than a fifth has been paid by their earnings by industrial work. It is considered essential they should feel they are contributing to their own support, and washing and needle-work are made chief objects in their training. They are provided with a good outfit on going to service, and usually repay ten shillings of its cost from their wages. They are allowed, as a favour, to return to the Home when out of place, but they are strongly urged not to give up their first situation, and if they remain in it more than a year £1 is placed to their credit in the bank.

In 1861 the late lamented Countess of Devon opened a Home for eighteen workhouse children, and others, who are orphans or deserted. With the former the guardians pay what they would cost in the workhouse; and £5 is expected from any private person placing a child in the institution. It is at Kenton, close to Powderham Castle, whence the laundry and dairy establishments have been transferred to it, and so well do the girls work under efficient teachers as materially to defray the remaining cost of their maintenance. Such training prepares them to be good servants, and we are not surprised to hear that of thirteen placed out—some in moderate, some in large households—only one has done badly. They are admitted at various ages, but are not sent to service until sixteen, after being confirmed and becoming communicants.

“The lamentable statements,” says the first report of the Training Home for Destitute Orphan Girls in connexion with the Wolverhampton Preventive Mission, “issued by authority respecting the career of girls, after leaving the Union Houses in various parts of the country in which they had been for some time residents, seemed to demand an effort to rescue some of those who were yet young in the Union House of Wolverhampton from a life of after degradation and sin.” To meet this crying want the Home was opened in January, 1863, for sixteen girls, commencing with ten. This number was probably too large to begin with, and some of the girls were, perhaps, too old to be reclaimed, for the difficulties of the first year were very great. The age of admission has gradually lowered, and now none are received over ten years old; while it is found better that they should come even much younger, to save them from depraving influences, and to give them several years training. The foundress does not bind herself by any rule to place them at a fixed age, judging it best to let that event be decided by the fitness of the individual to go out into the

world. That the right spirit prevails among them we may hope from the answer of one who had been sent to service. "Would you not rather be in the Home again?" she was one day asked. "No," she answered; "the Home has been a good home to me, and I love it dearly—but now *I am getting my living.*"

Not many have yet been placed out, and four of the early ones must be considered failures; but the rest appear to be thoroughly unpauperized, mixing on an equality with respectable servants.

The children receive elementary instruction from ladies attending as voluntary teachers, and are taught all kinds of housework; but owing, probably, to their youthfulness at present, they do not undertake remunerative employment. They cost, all expenses included, about £18 12s. a year, more than half of which is supplied by payments from guardians, and the rest by unsolicited donations, many of them in kind.

The foundress has for some years had a Free Registry Office, which has been the means of placing 900 girls in service, who are visited and watched by an appointed agent, sheltered if homeless, and nursed when sick. An intimate acquaintance has thus been gained with a large number of very destitute young women, and yet the opinion of the manager of the Home is, that "girls springing from the same class, *who have been long in the workhouse*, are the worst by far; more idle, more obtuse and difficult to rouse to a desire for self-improvement and to sentiments of honour than those who have been brought up at home—wretched as their homes may be."

A Home has been lately established by Lady Emma Stanley and Lady Cecilia Molyneux for the reception of orphans from West Derby Union. The guardians pay what each child cost when in the workhouse, and the institution is of course open to the Poor Law Inspector. The Home will receive ten pupils, and their ages vary from seven to twelve. They are divided into two parties, who attend the National School on alternate mornings; those who remain at home do the housework, wash, &c. In the afternoon all learn to knit and sew.

Other kindred institutions exist in various parts of the country; their object being to root out, by the influences of a well-ordered home, the evil wrought by wrong training; and to prepare their wards, by careful instruction in all household arts, to take a good position in domestic service, and afterwards as wives and mothers. If the inmates be rigorously limited to a number small enough to preserve the characteristics of a home, it cannot be doubted that such institutions are admirably adapted to the end to be attained; but there is little ground to expect that they will ever be so multiplied as to deal, collectively, with more than a few hundred girls, while thousands are crying to us for rescue.

In March, 1861, Miss Twining opened a Home in New Ormond street, for girls who, having gone to service chiefly from pauper schools, were out of place, and had no refuge but the adult ward of the workhouse. One of the objections raised to the scheme,—and what enterprise, however simple, however beneficent, has not been impeded at its outset by ignorant and selfish cavillers?—was that "no girls who went into workhouses were worth trying to save, as all were already bad; none, who had any character left, would go there, or would be needing help after having been once launched in service on leaving the schools." What a cruel calumny on the friendless orphan, who, cast adrift from her place by illness or the unreasonable demands of employers, or, may be, her own incapacity, seeks the dull cold shelter of the workhouse rather than live by sin; and how bitter a comment on the inadequacy of the training bestowed at great expense by the State upon its children to keep them in the path of virtue!

The first year's history of the Home proved the existence of a large class capable of benefiting by its aid. Upwards of sixty girls of good character were received from eighteen unions. Of these about two-thirds had been educated in District, Separate, or Workhouse Schools, the remainder in non-pauper institutions; but for all, the only present refuge would have been the adult ward of the workhouse, those alone excepted who were young enough for admission to their respective schools. The following is a fair specimen of the class to whom Miss Twining extends her protection at those junctures of life, when, without such aid, ruin is almost inevitable.

"M. L., aged sixteen, an orphan, and does not remember her parents; has been three years at a district school, so has more learning than the rest, but also more knowledge of evil, much of which was unfortunately derived from a wicked woman in the adult ward, where she was placed on leaving her situation to return to the workhouse, though she had only been there now six weeks. She had had three different places, since she left the school, at coffee-shops, which seem to offer sad risks and temptations to these poor friendless girls; up late at night and early in the morning with no rest even on Sundays; it is indeed surprising if any remain in such situations with good character.

"One cannot but think that the careful and expensive education of our district schools ought to end in something better than these places, or on leaving them, the adult wards of workhouses."^a

While in the Home the girls are occupied in household work, in sewing, and in nursing the sick and infirm in a separate department of the institution. If they need training they are retained for that object; otherwise they are placed in service without delay—as a rule, in small households, which Miss Twining considers more suitable for them than larger establishments. Mrs. Way, it will be remembered, prefers the latter for her girls; but it must be borne in mind that Miss Twining's Home is intended for an older class, who have not had the blessing of such training as Brockham affords. The young people are encouraged to regard the institution as a real home, returning to it on holidays, or if in trouble, or when

^a *Journal of the Workhouse Visiting Society, May, 1861.*

out of place (paying, of course, for the accommodation when able); and all who bear a good character are invited to the annual festival on the anniversary of its establishment. These meetings have been attended by persons of distinguished rank and social influence, who have testified, not only by their presence, but in words, their favourable opinion of the institution, and sympathy with its objects. At one, the Right Honourable William Cowper, who presided, remarked,—“This Home sprang out of the Workhouse Visiting Society, which itself arose from the reflection that the poor in workhouses were least cared for. The Poor Law intended workhouses as a test for the prevention of imposture, and in that they had succeeded; but these laws could not provide that friendly and fraternal care which the aged needed in illness, and of which the children were necessarily deprived. It had always been held in theory that private benevolence might assist the Poor Law, but the unions generally were not accessible, and to those that were the supply of visitors was not equal to the demand.”^a

On the same occasion the Earl of Devon said, with reference to the Workhouse Visiting Society, that “he had always looked upon such societies as necessary, and supplemental to the Poor Law system. The very nature of the workhouse itself—intended as it was by law for all classes of society—precluded that individual, friendly, and maternal feeling, which all know to be a most efficacious element in the training of young females. And, when they added to that the fact that these persons, after passing a certain age, were placed in the adult wards, where sometimes women of the most vicious and abandoned character were found, it needed nothing more, he thought, to convince every one that the institution of the Home for girls was calculated, by the blessing of God, to be of the greatest benefit to that class of society who so much needed their care and attention. They could hardly imagine a more unfortunate position for a young girl to be placed in, on arriving at the age of sixteen, than that of being removed from the schools and placed with adult females.”^b

The same nobleman said on the following anniversary, when the Archbishop of Canterbury presided, that he regarded this institution “as supplying that which was an irremediable defect in the workhouse;” it “did that which no legal relief could do—it exercised a personal sympathy which could not be given in workhouses.”^c

The Rev. O. J. Vignoles, Chaplain of the North Surrey District Schools, moved a resolution to the effect “that it is desirable that no girls should be in workhouses after the school period, *as undoing all the benefits of separation and previous training in district schools.*” And the Rev. G. H. McGill, Chaplain of St. George’s in the East Workhouse, supporting him, said, that after some opposition the Board of Guardians of that parish had agreed to send girls to the Home; and that “out of the forty-five who had been sent there, not more than four had returned to the workhouse; so that, independent of all other considerations, it was a great saving to the ratepayers.”^d

From the last Annual Report of the institution,^e we learn that about 400 girls had been admitted during the six years of its existence. Some indeed had proved failures, but they were, in proportion, few; and the healthy unpauper aspect of those who had been guests at the previous anniversary, with the expressions of warm gratitude in letters from many others at a distance, afforded proof of a large measure of success. Applications from respectable employers very far exceed the number of girls to be placed out; and another equally satisfactory fact is that the Home has completely destroyed in the girls all attachment to the workhouse. A very few, incapacitated by ill-health or inefficiency, have re-entered it, and some, though fewer still, have been returned, for incorrigible naughtiness; but none have gone back voluntarily.

The cost of such an institution is a serious consideration; and though, in Miss Twining’s opinion, State aid may wisely be supplemented by private benevolence, she, herself, fears the want of funds will always keep the Homes few in number. In her’s the cost per head is about seven shillings a week, and of this sum only half is paid by guardians for the girls they place there.

The Governor of Liverpool Workhouse has added to it a department resembling, in some respects, Miss Twining’s Home. The evil of permitting respectable girls to associate with the dissolute women in the adult wards, was brought forcibly to his mind by an instance of abandoned conduct, not, we fear, uncommon among this miserable class,—when two stripped themselves naked at night and danced about the dormitory. He caused a vacant building to be fitted up for well-disposed girls, who were too old to enter the school, and placing a matron over them, had them instructed in all domestic work. He does not allow them to take other than good places at good wages, and there is a demand for them in the respectable households of Lancashire. Of 390 girls who have passed through this department 138 have been lost sight of, chiefly through records not having been kept in the early years of the institution; but of the remainder, 171 have done well, and only eight have returned to the workhouse.

To be certain only of the well-doing of less than half would indicate no very brilliant success, had the circumstances of the training school been more favourable. But the heavy disadvantage it labours under, in being enclosed within the workhouse walls, must be borne in mind; and comparing the results with what would, in all probability, have been the fate of these poor creatures had no attempt been made to rescue them, the benevolent author of the plan may reasonably congratulate himself on the operation of a scheme which has cost the ratepayers nothing but the matron’s salary—a sum that must have been saved to them over and over again, by the girls she has trained becoming self-supporters.

^a *Journal of the Workhouse Visiting Society*, May, 1863.

^b *Ibid.*

^c *Journal of the Workhouse Visiting Society*, April, 1864.

^d *Ibid.*

^e Sixth Report of the Industrial Home for Girls, and Home for Incurable and Infirm Women, 1867.

In September, 1864, the guardians of Cork opened an Industrial Home for fifteen girls from their workhouse. Four were received in the first month, and the number was gradually increased. It was placed under the management of a committee of ladies, and fitted up in such a manner that the inmates could be instructed in laundry and housework. When first admitted, so ignorant were they of ordinary life that they did not even know how to use knives and forks, and, indolent and listless, seemed unable to think or, it might almost be said, even to *see* for themselves. In January, 1867, it was, unfortunately, found necessary to close the institution, the house having proved unfit for its purpose; but already seventy-seven girls, varying in age from nine to eighteen, had received more or less training there. Several of these had been in the workhouse from birth, the average time spent therein being nine years; and most were orphans of one or both parents. Nineteen proved failures, nine returned to the workhouse through illness, nine were in the Home when it closed, but forty were at that date in situations.

No wonder the guardians consider their experiment sufficiently successful to authorize its renewal, and are unanimous in their intention of re-opening the Home as soon as a suitable house can be found. True, the failure of nearly one-third of those able to work, is positively a large proportion, but, comparatively,—remembering that the raw material was of the genuine workhouse type—it will be acknowledged to be small by all acquainted with that class. The guardians cordially attribute their success, in great degree, to the ladies who were, in fact, the originators of the institution, and who have constantly watched over the girls, both under its roof, and, as far as possible, when placed in service. Their co-operation is invited in the management of the new Home; and as it is proposed to place this outside the city, and, while receiving the girls at an earlier age, to extend the period of training for each inmate to at least twelve months, we trust the results hereafter will be far more satisfactory even than those already obtained; and that a similar effort to meet the great demand in Ireland for good servants, as well as to open to thousands of poor workhouse children an honest and independent career, will shortly be made by other Boards following the wise example of the guardians of Cork.

Several years ago two ladies devised a method for giving industrial training to some of the female “City Arabs” of Dublin, and for procuring them employment by which they might rescue themselves from destitution.* They were instructed in laundry-work, in sewing, and in the delicate crochet which rivals antique lace, one of their patronesses (who had already set a similar institution on foot in Cork during the potato famine) being most energetic and successful in obtaining large orders from houses of business. The course adopted was to pay the young people weekly wages for their labour, however small the sum due to them might be; and this substantial result of their efforts soon made them regular attendants at the school. Subsequently it became necessary to close the laundry, the girls who had worked there being provided with occupation elsewhere; but the sewing and crochet classes were continued. The workers chiefly lived at their own homes, of which they often became the rent-payers, while sometimes they were the sole supporters of their families. At the school they received mental instruction from a certificated teacher, and were also regularly visited there by several ladies who read and talked with them, becoming thus intimately acquainted with their circumstances and able to help them in various ways,—often by obtaining for them, when prepared for it, permanent occupation, generally in service. One of these excellent persons took no fewer than nine girls in succession into her own house, and after training them in domestic duties found for them good situations.

The attention of the conductors of the institution being drawn to the lamentable condition of girls in workhouses by Mrs. Jameson’s “Communion of Labour,” they asked permission to take a few into their school. “What,” said the gentleman in authority,—a very benevolent man—to whom they applied, “will you really take girls out of the workhouse? Do you know that they are all bad? Are you not aware that ninety-nine per cent. are such as you dare not bring in to your school?” adding—such was his impression of the effect of workhouse life,—that it would be better to take pupils from the gaol or the reformatory. A visit to the hundreds of young women who crowded the adult wards of the workhouse with which this gentleman was connected, convinced the applicant that the step she had contemplated involved a risk she could not run; but eventually a few younger girls were selected from the juvenile department of another union upon whom the experiment should be made. They were first formed into a probationary class within the workhouse, where the mistress undertook to prepare them for the particular kind of needlework they would have to execute; and gradually twelve were drafted into the school henceforth to be also a Home. The average age of these girls was 16½ years, and the average period they had spent in the workhouse 10½ years, so that they were fair specimens of the training given there. They could read and write, they exhibited no vicious propensities, were honest and did not tell lies; but they were sickly and spiritless, stupid to the last degree, and so totally devoid of a knowledge of common things that they seemed destitute of ordinary intelligence. One was terrified on being put into a railway train; another after a fall of snow, asked “how the dust would be got off the trees?”

They knew nothing of the use of money. As long as they could recollect—the monotonous round of workhouse life, like the “raising” system which produced poor Topsy, often obliterates all memory of previous existence, and the child loses count even of its own age,—food, clothing, everything had been supplied to them they knew not how; and their utter indifference to any amount of mischief they did, was most perplexing to those who had taken charge of them. A curious fact revealed itself in the history of this little institution. During its early period a matron of the social position such an officer usually holds was found competent to its management; but when the workhouse girls were admitted her efficiency ceased; and it was not until a woman of education and refinement—in other words, a lady—undertook the post, that these poor, undisciplined, and stupified creatures could be successfully treated. Similar experience, we are informed, has been gathered in the conduct of gaols.

* *Irish Quarterly Review*, January, 1860.

It had been intended to train these girls, eventually, for service; but it was soon found that, as regarded many, it would be impossible to fit them for such a destination. They had never seen a pot put on the fire, nor a joint of meat, nor undressed vegetables; they did not know the use of knives and forks, nor could some of them go up and down stairs without falling! Perhaps more hopeless than all was their liability to violent passion or dense sulkiness; ill temper, indeed, is one of the most marked characteristics of workhouse children, deprived as they are of the salutary influence both of the individual affection and the various trials of home life. The only way to mitigate the evil, if it cannot be uprooted, "is to believe firmly that the child has been born with a heart and feelings like other people, and seek out these buried treasures at any cost. One gets into deep soundings, but the search is seldom altogether in vain." So said the ladies, and so have they acted. The institution was made as homelike as possible; intercourse with the *extern* pupils with their knowledge of ordinary life and devotion of their earnings to the support of themselves and their relatives, was most beneficial; and equally so was the presence as *interns*, or boarders, of two orphans who had never been in a workhouse, and whose superior intelligence brightened the whole household. All attended a Sunday school, taught by the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul; and the influence of the ladies who visited the school on week-days, and whose good opinion was highly valued, was brought to bear specially on difficult cases. Banishment to the workhouse was held over them as the greatest possible punishment, while a crowning reward for good conduct, was permission to bring thence a former companion when a vacancy occurred in the Home, the girl to whom the favour was accorded being made, as it were, bail for the right behaviour of her *protégée*;—a course similar in principle to that adopted with success in dealing with criminals by Captain Maconochie, when governor of Norfolk Island.

Careful teaching soon enabled the girls to earn a few pence during the week, and this sum mounted in course of time to shillings. The unwillingness to adopt a suggestion made to some of them, that, being now able to support themselves, they might remove to lodgings, revealed the disposition still remaining to depend upon others for care, and for the provision of food and shelter; and thus indicated a defect in the institution, inseparable probably from every artificial arrangement to replace the natural home. Gradually the reluctance to self-dependence was overcome, and the old pupils established themselves in lodgings, under the friendly supervision of the ladies. They were induced as much as possible to procure work for themselves, and many obtained employment in a large factory for ready-made clothing, where the wages vary from 2s. 6d. to £1, or more, a week. The girls are enrolled in a small religious association with the ladies which maintains the bond between them, and their benefactors frequently visit them at their work.

A plan in some degree resembling that we have just described, has been pursued of late years in connexion with the South Dublin Union, with the friendly approval of the guardians, and the co-operation of the present enlightened master, who has himself introduced many reforms into the workhouse, and promotes every effort for the benefit of the inmates.

Two "Ladies' Visiting Societies" have been established, the one Protestant, the other Catholic, which, limiting their ministration strictly to the followers of their respective creeds, work side by side in harmony, and have attained remarkable success. Besides devoting much attention to the sick and infirm, classes for the able-bodied women have been formed. Sacred music, with the aid of a harmonium, the gift of an ever-generous friend, is one of the subjects taught, and has a peculiarly softening influence. Admission to these classes is a coveted reward for good conduct in the laundry or oakum shop; while they enable the ladies to observe the character and capacity of the young women, and so to seek for them fitting occupations out of doors. Some are even doing well in service; but for the greater number employment has been obtained at factories, they being allowed to sleep at the workhouse until they can earn wages sufficient to pay for a lodging. This is found for them in respectable though very humble families,—a better plan, as experience has proved, than collecting them in a Home, however small.

The young people when they have felt the dignity of independence, are usually eager to destroy every trace of their connexion with the workhouse; and in order to avoid mutual recognition they disperse themselves as widely as possible. Thus, positive statistics of those rescued from pauperism would be hard to obtain; but their benefactors are usually able to pursue their career with watchful eyes; and on their assurance that the measure of success is large, we confidently rely.

Not many years ago the young women in the Dublin Unions were known only for their lawless behaviour and utter insubordination. They exhausted every means of control within the workhouse, were frequently before the magistrates, and occasionally were consigned even to the convict prison. "I have heard a guardian say," we are informed by a writer on Irish workhouses, "that during one of the frequent outbreaks in the union he has seen all the wardmasters, the street police, and the whole body of guardians, assembled on Board day, standing at fault before a yard full of these desperate girls, and succeeding only after a long delay, and the use of the rudest physical force, in securing and carrying off to prison the ringleaders of the tumult."^a It is the members of this same class,—in some instances the very individuals themselves, who by the influence of Christian gentlewomen have been converted into self-respecting, docile, and industrious citizens, free, it is to be hoped, for ever from the workhouse, and absorbed into the respectable labouring population.

THE BOARDING-OUT SYSTEM.

THE Irish Orphanage we are about to describe is not a pauper institution; but the children it provides for are of the same class with many who drift into our workhouses, and we give its history as that of a highly successful instance of the "Boarding-out System" which approves itself to us as peculiarly adapted to supply the wholesome training for after life which the workhouse fails to afford.

^a Journal of the Workhouse Visiting Society, Feb. 1860.

THE DUBLIN PROTESTANT ORPHAN SOCIETY.

In 1828 was originated in Dublin by three Protestants of very humble position, an Orphanage for the fatherless of their own faith.^a Until that period such bereaved little ones had frequently found a refuge in the numerous institutions established by benevolent Roman Catholics; but in these, not unnaturally, conversion to the creed of their benefactors became, if not absolutely a condition, generally a consequence of the children's admittance; and to provide for their education in the religion of their parents, the Protestant Orphan Society was founded. A *penny-a-week* subscription was set on foot by the suggesters of the scheme (in Ireland a common, and, as it appears to us, a touching mode of raising funds for charitable purposes, including as it does the offerings of the lowliest), and with the humble sum of threepence they commenced in November, 1828, their operations. Difficulties, at first appearing almost insuperable, were by energy and perseverance surmounted; money flowed in apace, and the Archbishop of Dublin became the Patron of the Society, while the Provost of Trinity College and the Dean of St. Patrick's accepted the office of Vice Presidents. Twenty-four destitute orphans were selected as the first recipients of its bounty, and a plan was adopted for training its wards, which has ever since been pursued. No vast and imposing building was erected, swallowing up the funds of the institution, and agglomerating the children in unnatural masses; but the orphans were sent into the country to board in the families of respectable Protestants, usually labourers or small farmers, the moral and religious character of the foster-mothers being duly ascertained as follows:—

"Nurse's Certificate.

I do hereby certify, from my own knowledge, that _____ is a Protestant, and married to a Protestant, and that she resides in the Townland of _____ in the Parish of _____ Post Town _____ County of _____ at a distance of _____ from the Parochial School of _____ She has _____ Children, viz. _____ Males, Females; she has a House of her own, and _____ acres of Ground, and _____ Cows. She has not any other Children under her care from any other Institution; I therefore recommend her as a proper Person to be entrusted with the care of a Child from the *Protestant Orphan Society*.

The above recommended person is about _____ Years of Age, about _____ Feet _____ Inch in Stature, Complexion, _____ Eyes, _____ Hair, her last Child being _____ Dated _____ day of _____ 183 _____

} Minister
or Curate.

Name and residence of }
nearest Magistrate. }

Nurses are to take Notice, that no Child will be given to any person who has not been particularly described as above; and if detected in any attempt to impose on the Charity, will be punished as the Law directs."

Subsequently the churchwarden's attestation was also required, and it was made a condition that the nurse should not receive children from the Foundling Hospital or any other charitable institution.

Inspectors were appointed to visit the homes from time to time, to verify the statements of the certificates, and to investigate the treatment of the children, filling up the following forms with the result of their observations.

"Form of Inspector's Report on each Nurse, and each Child in her care.

PARISH OF _____
NURSE _____

Name, age, and occupation of nurse?
Name of her husband?
Number and ages of nurse's children, distinguishing males and females?
Has the nurse any children from any other Society, or from private individuals?
Name of townland?
Distance of house from church?
Distance from School, and its name?
Name of school-master or mistress—if trained—where?
Number of children attending school?
Boys. _____ Girls. _____ Protestants. _____ Roman Catholics. _____
Is there a separate female school?
Are the girls taught needlework?
Who superintend the school?
Give your opinion of the school fully?
How are the orphans employed when not at school?
Is family prayer used in the nurse's house, and what form?
Can the nurse, or any of her family, read?
How often do the orphans and nurse's family attend church?
How often does the superintending clergyman visit the nurse's house?
Is there any Dispensary in the neighbourhood, or can medical advice be had conveniently?
State of nurse's house as to situation, cleanliness, furniture, &c. &c.
How are the orphans accommodated, as to bedding, &c. &c.
How many cows has the nurse? what land? and what apparently are her circumstances?
Do you think the nurse should get more orphans in addition to her present number (if less than three,) or in place of any of them who may be removed?
Are any of the orphans fit to be placed in the apprentice class? if so, state their names and descriptions? Could the nurse's family take any of them as apprentices? or what tradesmen near them could do so?

^a Annual Reports of the Protestant Orphan Society, 77 Upper Sackville-street, Dublin.

ORPHANS WITH NURSE

- No. 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____

Name and age of Orphan.—No. 1.

State of health and appearance.

Does he say his prayers morning and evening? can he repeat them accurately?

Has he a Bible and Prayer-book? if not, is he of suitable age to use them?

Proficiency in Scripture and Catechism?

Ditto in Reading and Spelling?

Ditto in Writing and Arithmetic?

Same queries to be answered respecting each Orphan."

These Reports are filed at the office of the Society, so that the condition of each child, its progress at school, &c., can at any moment be ascertained.

The children were also taken under the voluntary supervision of the Protestant clergyman of the district in which they are located, with whom the Committee of the Society constantly correspond concerning their welfare, and through whom all payments to nurses are made; and to these three safeguards—the respectability of the foster-parents, the uncertain visits of the Inspectors, and the constant friendly surveillance of a resident clergyman—were soon added yearly, and, if occasion required, still more frequent visits by three members of the Committee. One of the three was the lamented Rev. Thomas Shore, late Chaplain to the Male Convict Prison in Dublin, and to the male and female Protestant reformatories in that city. His thorough appreciation of the principles upon which the Irish convict system is based, enabled him to co-operate with peculiar success in its administration; while to his introduction of the same principles into the management of the reformatories, together with his constant supervision, may be attributed a large portion of their remarkable success. A sagacious benevolence was combined in Mr. Shore, with unwearying self-devotion; and to the favourable opinion, therefore, which he expressed to us, shortly before his death—founded upon twenty years' personal observation—of the plan pursued by the Orphan Society, we attribute great weight.

It may readily be believed that by the means we have described effective protection against ill-treatment is afforded to the orphans; for though occasionally it is found necessary to reprove a foster-mother, or "nurse" as the Society styles them, and sometimes, though very rarely, even to dismiss one, the constant watch upon their conduct prevents any wrong towards the little ones being long continued. The nurses are required to present themselves and their wards at the annual meetings of the Society (their travelling expenses being defrayed by it), and to produce a certificate from their clergyman that the children regularly attend a Protestant place of worship, and the day and Sunday Schools. A reward to the *teacher*, if the child on leaving school is found to have been well instructed, secures his interest in its progress; while the regular attendance of little orphans enables them to carry off a large share of the prizes.

The sums paid by the Society to the nurses were originally £4 per annum for children under two years old, and £3 10s. for all above that age. These were to cover the expense of food, lodging, washing, and education,—the Society providing clothing. Subsequently these amounts were raised to £5 for children under one year old, and £4 for all above; the Society paying 5s. per annum to a neighbouring school for each child able to attend.

A considerable number of the subscribers had desired, when the association was formed, that a house should be taken as a dwelling for the orphans; and consequently a very careful investigation was made into the relative merits of the two schemes. The inquiry resulted in the conviction that the cost of the children maintained in a house apart, would be three times that of their support in families; while the moral advantage of replacing them as nearly as possible in the circumstances appointed by nature—where, in the circle of an industrious family, they would be trained by example as well as precept in habits of activity and labour—was believed to afford an equally strong motive for adopting the boarding-out system.

There appears to be a growing feeling against Orphanages at home and abroad. "Une grande question a été mise à l'ordre du jour d'une importante assemblée qui doit se tenir dans le courant de cette année en Hollande, 'Le peu de succès qu'obtiennent les orphelinats,'"—writes Monsieur John Bost in his last Annual Report of his marvellous institution at Laforce in France, where orphans form one of the many classes of the bereaved and afflicted whom he takes under his benevolent care, and teaches to be mutually helpful.* He argues, however, that unless every orphan can find a home in a family, orphanages are "*une déplorable nécessité*," but he urges in eloquent and touching language the importance of rendering life in such institutions as little distinct as possible from that of the outer world, and shows how this is accomplished at Laforce. We wish his words may reach those excellent persons who are engaged in the management of kindred establishments in this country. We have heard of one in which classification of the inmates by age leaving the infants without more companionship with older people than the nurses afforded, symptoms of idiocy appeared among them; and a healthful tone of mind was not restored until they were allowed to mingle freely with other children further advanced in years and

* *Les Œuvres de Laforce.* London: Nisbet & Co., 1867.

intellect. From another Orphan Asylum some little people being permitted to pay a visit at a gentleman's country house, and who had in order to reach it to pass through London, were observed in that part of the transit which was performed on foot, to cling to each other or to the railings, apparently unable to walk alone. Arrived at their host's residence, the "common objects" of rural life seemed to bewilder them, and, among these, chickens were gazed and exclaimed at in astonishment. Knowing that the Asylum which had received them was in the country, we were ourselves amazed at their ignorance until we happened to meet in a Report of the institution with the following regulation: "that no dogs, birds, rabbits, pigs, &c. shall be allowed on the premises."

The number of children under the care of the Dublin Society had by 1832 increased to 115; and in that year branch associations began to be formed in provincial towns, which have proved equally successful with the original institution. This had been in existence six years when some of its wards had reached an age suitable for apprenticeship, and the committee pledging itself to equal care in the selection of employers as they exercised in the choice of nurses, required the following certificate duly filled up to be presented by any applicant for their children.

“ FORM OF APPLICATION FOR APPRENTICES.

To the Committee of the Protestant Orphan Society.

a sets forth that he is a Protestant, is b whose name before marriage was and that he is
aged about years, that he has sons living with the eldest about years and the
youngest years, and daughters, the eldest about years, and the youngest years, who are all
brought up in the Protestant Religion; that he has Apprentices, who have been educated in the Protestant Religion,
and no others; that he does not retail Malt or Spirituous Liquors: that he resides at No. c street in the Parish
of and County of where he rents, and occupies a d and Farm consisting of Acres,
which he holds for an unexpired term of and has resided in the same place years, and that he there carries
on the business of and is able to maintain and instruct an Apprentice in the same Business; e he therefore humbly
prays your Committee to grant as an Apprentice, a named now living with at
to be by instructed in the Business of

Witness

Signed

Applicant.

We, the undersigned Minister of the Parish of and Protestant Householders in said Parish, in the County
of do hereby certify that we have attentively read and examined the above Memorial, and on inquiry we find that
therein named, is honest, sober, moral, and industrious, and a Person of quiet and regular behaviour; and we
believe that the facts stated in the above Memorial are true.

Dated this day of 183

} Rector or Curate of
} County of

} Protestant Householders
} in said Parish.

Further it was provided that triplicate indentures should be signed, the treasurer of the Society being one of the parties.

In 1836 it was thought expedient to procure for the elder children instruction superior to that afforded in country schools; and with this object it was decided to remove to Dublin a class of six of each sex, to be filled up as vacancies occurred, placing them in the best parochial schools, which it was found could be done with no great increase of expense. In the capital, moreover, they could be seen by employers more conveniently than in their country homes. The advantage of this plan proving to be considerable, it was determined three years later to establish a home in Dublin for these elder children; and a suitable building was purchased in Percy Place, which thenceforth has been the "local habitation" of the Society. Their wards receive gratuitously excellent instruction from a neighbouring school, and the girls are practised in a higher class of housework than is attainable in a farmer's dwelling; while the clothing for all the orphans is stored here, and the house affords a home for the nurses and their wards on their annual visit to Dublin.

All the children placed out by the Society are apprenticed,—the boys for five or seven years to trades; the girls for three or five years to trades or domestic service, and thus a certain degree of control is maintained over them during youth. A fee, graduated according to circumstances, is given with each child apprenticed to a trade. Great care has always been exercised in the selection of employers, and several years ago an Inspector was appointed to visit every apprentice twice yearly, and to keep up a constant intercourse by letter. In 1842 an "Apprentice Relief Fund" was formed to afford assistance in cases of extreme need, where the apprenticeship has been faithfully served.

A burial place, for those of the orphans who may die in Dublin, was granted, unsolicited, by the

a Name of Applicant. b This Blank to be filled with, Married to a Protestant, or Unmarried, Widow or Widower as the case may be. c State Residence. d A House or Apartments, as the case may be; if no Farm, the words relating thereto are to be struck out. e If the Apprentice be wanted as a Servant, it must be so stated."

incumbent of St. Catherine's. The spot he gave is close to that where, having just laid the body of a friend in its last resting-place, and deeply moved by the destitute condition of his children, three humble-tradesmen devised the Protestant Orphan Society. A suitable inscription on the tombstone placed in memory of the orphans first buried there records the origin of the Association. It has indeed become a mighty tree from so small a seed! The provincial branches, as we learn from the Annual Report issued in March, 1866, have increased to thirty; they have 2208 orphans under their care, and have placed out in the world 5376. 1817 Orphans have shared the bounty of the parent society, of whom 453 children are now under its charge; 831 have been apprenticed; and 428 have been returned to friends whose circumstances had sufficiently improved to authorize the restoration.

The mortality of the Dublin orphans calculated in 1862 upon several preceding years is, according to the eminent statician Dr. Neilson Hancock, slightly under 1 per cent. per annum, the average national rate for their age being $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.^a Let us contrast this with the deaths for the same period throughout Ireland in workhouses, which, for children under sixteen, was about three times the national rate, while in Cork Workhouse this was multiplied ten times; and in North Dublin Union the mortality of children under two years amounted to 116 per cent.,—"In other words, children under two years of age were not likely to live more than ten months in the house."^b No wonder the guardians of that Union urged the non-admission of such children, "as it would be nearly certain death to receive them."^c

The healthy, happy aspect of the orphans, and the motherly care they receive in illness, are frequently commented upon by the Members of the Committee after their annual visit to the children, and by the clergymen in whose parishes they dwell. One of these gentlemen, Dr. Fletcher, writes, "I often see the little Protestant orphans in the simple livery of that benevolent Society, going to and coming from school, or playing at the cottage doors, where they are living, with such ruddy health, and happy faces, and comfortable dress, as prove the excellence of the system, and the humanity and tenderness of the families in which they are placed; and upon inquiry into the feelings which subsist between them and their nurses, I always find them to be those of filial attachment on their side, and parental kindness on the other. You may recollect a case of this description here last summer, in which a child about to be removed from one family to another grieved so bitterly that the Society did not insist upon the change. In short, I am convinced that all the children are happy, and scarcely know that they are orphans; whilst the nurses in a great measure forget that they are not their parents. Take it for all in all, I do not know a more useful and excellent society."^d He elsewhere remarks, "The Society is so simple in its moral constitution that all its resources are expended on its legitimate objects, and not wasted on cumbrous and unprofitable machinery. Every shilling tells, and the connexion is immediate and palpable between the outlay and the gain. It is the best substitute in existence for parental kindness; and sometimes excels in this respect the provisions of nature, because even where affection fails other feelings come in to supply their place; and most of the virtues and the faults of common life work together for the orphan's good."^e

The annual cost of the children (exclusive of the apprenticeship fee) is between £10 and £11 per head, dividing the whole expenditure of the Society by the number of its wards. We are informed that, in this country, the friends of an orphan frequently pay (in canvassing expenses, purchasing the right to vote, &c.) £100 to obtain its election to one of our Asylums^f—a sum which if expended on the plan of the Dublin Society would, in numerous cases, entirely maintain the child until able to support itself.

The Reports do not afford minute statistics of moral results, partly, no doubt, because the children as they establish themselves in life are gradually lost sight of; but careful and extensive enquiry, both from those engaged in this benevolent enterprise and from disinterested observers, has convinced us that the results are not less satisfactory under a moral than under a sanitary and pecuniary point of view.

About nine years ago a similar orphanage, called St. Brigid's, was established by a Roman Catholic lady in Dublin, with the warm approval of the Roman Catholic Archbishop, for children of that faith. Placed to board in respectable country families, they are constantly visited by the conductors of the Orphanage, and watched over by the priest of the parish in which they dwell; and at a suitable age they are apprenticed to trades or service. Within seven years of the commencement 500 children had been taken in charge, of whom only three or four had turned out ill, while 200 were "already working for themselves in trades, at service, or growing up in the families and as the sons and daughters of their foster parents."^g Fifty have indeed been thus adopted. "A poor man, whose wife had charge of one of the orphans, was obliged to go to England to look for employment. He obtained a good situation, sent for his family, and charged his wife to bring the boy. 'Go,' said he, 'to St. Brigid's, and tell the lady that we will make our own of the child, and that we will do for him the same as our own, and there will be no difference between them.' When a good woman was told that a child of whom she had charge was about to be taken from her, and provided for: 'Give me back my child,' she said; 'I'll go home desolate without him. Leave him with us a little, and we'll do for him. My son is learning a trade; in a few years he will be a tradesman and will teach James the trade. For God's love do not part me and my child.' One poor woman wrung her hands when she heard her foster-child was about to be provided for. 'God gave me seven children, and He took them again from me by death; and this is the only one I have

^a The Mortality of Children in Workhouses in Ireland; by W. Neilson Hancock, Esq., L.L.D. Dublin, 1862.

^b Ibid. ^c Ibid.

^d Tenth Report of the Protestant Orphan Society.

^e Fourteenth Annual Report of the Protestant Orphan Society.

^f The Orphan Asylum at Ashley Down near Bristol is an exception. The founder and director of that institution, Mr. Müller, ascertains the genuineness of the claim of each applicant, and if this be established the child is admitted to fill the first vacancy.

^g *The Lamp*, No. 123.

now; I'll keep him in the place of my seven, and I'll rear him, and not be lonesome in my old age.' Another, finding that an orphan could no longer be paid for, said, 'Well, my own little girl died a short time ago, and perhaps God Almighty took her to make room for Mary; and so, if you are pleased, she will be to me instead of my own daughter.' And again, a strong man came with tears in his eyes to a priest to implore him that a child who had been in his house might not be taken away. 'My wife will break her heart if the child be torn from us,' he said; 'leave her with us and we will make her our own.'"^a

There are absolutely no establishment expenses in connection with this Orphanage, as the Confraternities in the City voluntarily collect the subscriptions; and the inspection is performed entirely by the ladies connected with St. Brigid's. In this latter respect it may even be superior to the Protestant Orphanage, for, able and devoted as are the gentlemen who visit the little Protestants in their homes, it cannot be disputed that women are, by virtue of their sex, more competent to judge of the well-being of children.

Within the last few years the Dublin Guardians have sent infant orphans, and deserted children, to foster nurses in the country. These bring their wards periodically to be inspected by the Board, and are also visited frequently in their own homes by the relieving officer. Although circumstances have occurred indicating the need of supervision by persons of a higher class, the authorities are, on the whole, well pleased with the result so far, and the healthy appearance of the children testifies favorably to the plan. Unfortunately, in the present state of the law, they must be transferred to the workhouse at a very early age: unless, indeed, they are adopted by their foster-parents, a result which the affectionate nature of the Irish character renders by no means improbable, as experience has already shown. Guardians and Poor Law Commissioners are alike desirous that the period should be extended until the children have reached the age of twelve, on the ground that by that time they would have become useful to their foster-parents, who would thus be able to retain them, so that they need never enter the union at all.^b It is to be hoped that the opinion of the authorities practically engaged in dealing with these children may speedily be rendered effective by law.

The Boarding-out system, we learn from M. de Liefde,^c has long been practised in various parts of Germany by the administration of public relief to the poor; but in some provinces inadequate care in the selection of homes and the lack of efficient supervision has raised against it a feeling akin to that excited by the parish-apprentice system in this country which still lingers amongst us. The defects, however, and the inadequacy in number resulting from their costliness, of establishments for homeless children became long ago painfully apparent to many German philanthropists, and to none more so than to Pastor Zeller of Beuggen. His aspiration, although his whole life may be said to have been devoted to the redemption of children by means of schools and asylums, was that these should be superseded by a genuine family system. "The Christian family parlour," he was wont to say, "is the best reformatory." Among the hearers whom, forty years ago, he imbued with this doctrine, was Andreas Bram, a native of Basle, who not only recognized in it the salvation of the child received into a home, but a reciprocal advantage to its benefactors, by the opportunity afforded them of carrying into practical effect the teachings of Christ; and experience has proved his conviction to have been well founded. He was aware, however, that a class of children existed for whom the stricter discipline of an institution was necessary, and desired that these should be dealt with in reformatory schools. Entering the ministry, Pastor Bram was in 1835 called to Neuekirchen near Moers in Rhenish Prussia, where he still resides. There public opinion was entirely opposed to his views, and for ten years he contented himself with labouring to disseminate them, travelling for this purpose great distances, visiting leading men, and delivering lectures. The common objection urged was that no suitable families could be found—an objection which at length, in 1845, the time seemed ripe for refuting. A family in his own congregation was willing to adopt his plan, and a destitute child was entrusted to his care, a small weekly sum for board being paid partly by the community, partly by voluntary gifts. The experiment was perfectly successful, and soon a second was tried. In a short time twenty-five children were thus placed out in nine families. Some organization became now needful for conducting the enterprise, and the "Society for the education of poor, abandoned, and neglected children in Christian families" was formed, with Pastor Bram for its President. The members sought suitable homes, and were even astonished at the number they met with, although the remuneration was purposely fixed low that there might be no temptation of pecuniary profit.

They also visited the children and their foster parents frequently, but rather in a spirit of friendly interest towards both parties than as inspectors coming solely on behalf of the children. Branch societies were formed, and in some Districts an offer to Government was made, and thankfully accepted, to undertake the supervision of children boarded out by the public authorities. It was soon found necessary to have a house as a temporary refuge for children needing shelter while a suitable home was selected, and in 1849 one was hired for the purpose at Neuekirchen, the family character being still as far as possible maintained in its management.

The statistics of the Society for 1863. (the latest given by M. de Liefde), show that 296 children had been taken charge of during its existence of eighteen years, of whom 113 were still under its care; the death rate had been about 1½ per cent., the average annual cost of each child was £6 15s. 4½d. Friendly intercourse is maintained with them after they are placed out in the world; and though some have failed to do well, a large majority are artisans and domestic servants of good character.

At Hamburg the Boarding-out system is pursued; and more than half the pauper children of Berlin

^a *The Lamp*, No. 123.

^b Irish Poor Law Report, 1867.

^c *Six Months among the Charities of Europe*, by John de Liefde. London, 1865.

are thus dealt with. The regulations for their management issued in 1866, and confirming the Code of 1854, lie before us. This department is under the control of the Poor Law Board, but its local administration is entrusted to an association of not less than five persons called an "Orphan Office." The members, entitled Warders and Wardresses,—the former superintending boys at school, the latter girls and little boys,—are proposed by the Poor Law Board, and appointed by the local magistrate. They assemble once monthly, when a member of the Poor Law Board has a right to be present, for consultation; and twice in the year all the Orphan Offices hold a general conference under the presidency of the Orphan Department of the Poor Law Board.

There is an Orphan Office in each Poor Law district, wherein the number of orphans boarded out is restricted to fifteen, in order that the members of the Office may not have more than three children respectively to superintend. Their duty consists in verifying the proofs of suitability for the charge of children presented by foster parents (who must not be in receipt of alms or parish pay, and who must comply strictly with the directions given by the Warders and Wardresses of their district); in closely watching by frequent visits the condition, treatment, and regular attendance at school of the orphans, and reporting the same half-yearly to the Poor Law Board; and in paying the foster-parents their allowances. These are, for children under one year old fifteen shillings a month, diminishing until for children between seven and fourteen it is nine shillings. The Board provides clothing for the infants and "also for children under six years old who have been well taken care of for six successive months by the same foster-parents." In case of illness, the child is attended by the district pauper medical officer.

In addition to the close personal supervision expected from the Warders and Wardresses, the city districts are visited by the Poor Law Inspectors, whose duty it is to point out to the different Orphan Offices any defects they may have observed, and if necessary to report them to the Poor Law Board.

The head of the Orphan Department in Berlin is M. Zelle,^a and the following data obtained from him we owe to the kindness of the distinguished jurist Baron Von Holzendorff, who writes, "We have a mixed system; part of our pauper children are educated in orphan houses, part are given in charge to trustworthy cottagers and citizens of towns. Berlin has a large orphan establishment in its rural vicinity, consisting however of several distinct houses. The spot is called *Rummelsburg*; there are five houses for 50 boys each (250 children), two houses for girls (100), a department for the agricultural training of girls between fourteen and fifteen years (50 girls), a nursery for children under 7 years (30), a hospital (containing now 30 children), an establishment for the reception of children affected with chronic diseases (20); in all 480 children.

"The majority, however, are boarded out, the total number being 1520. About 800 children are in cottages distributed over the whole of the province of Brandenburg, either in rural districts or in small towns, the clergy voluntarily exercising surveillance over those in the villages. In Berlin there are many non-clerical members of the administration, gentlemen and ladies, who offer their assistance for the same purpose. Boys are dismissed at the age of fourteen, girls at fifteen years.

"The result of my own observations, and the opinion of my friend, Mr. Zelle, are as follows:—Both systems, when well administered, may do; it depends on circumstances which ought to be preferred. It is desirable to have both; and to make a proper selection of children before subjecting them to either. For boys a *combined* educational training in a common establishment works well; for girls *individual* treatment is decidedly better than keeping them in orphan houses."

A Russian gentleman, Baron de Bode, informs us,—"We have a public institution, framed somewhat on the plan you mention of placing orphans to board among cottagers—children are sent from the Foundling Hospital in St. Petersburg into rural districts to be brought up in peasants' families; they are supported by the funds of the Hospital. Central stations are erected in the country, with infirmaries to which children placed in the neighbourhood resort when ill; there they also receive their elementary education; and, when they become of the right age, they choose their own trade, and receive a stipulated sum to set them up in life, from their guardians the authorities of the Foundling Hospital. Marriages are encouraged, mostly among themselves,—I believe even portions are established for that purpose; and for those who have a turn for agricultural pursuits land is granted by Government. But there is one great drawback in this, in other respects benevolent plan. It creates a sordid spirit among mothers of the rural population, much to the detriment of their own offspring, who are often neglected by them for fear of losing the stipend granted for the care of the nursing. It has even been observed in these localities where orphans are given out to nurse that population is on the wane. However, with proper management, the defect might be obviated."

The plan of boarding out children has existed in France for several centuries, having had its origin in the practice of sending them out of Paris and probably other large towns, immediately on their birth, to be nursed in the country. An *ordonnance* of the reign of King John (January 30th, 1450,) regulates the salary of the nurses, and also the emoluments of the agents at Paris, called *raccommenderesses*, who sought and engaged them. In 1613 under Louis XIII., letters patent were issued confirming their rights and privileges to four *raccommenderesses*, and prohibiting any addition to their number. In 1769, however, a dearth of nurses had arisen, owing, in part at least, to the non-payment of their salaries by the *raccommenderesses* (a testimony, by the way, to the evils of monopoly); and to remedy the deficiency a government department was established, entitled "*Le bureau general des nourrices, et des raccomman-*

^a This gentleman has just published an historical sketch of Juvenile Pauperism in Prussia, entitled "Care of Orphans; and the Orphan Children of Berlin," giving interesting details of the system now pursued.

deresses." Inspectors were appointed to visit the nurses, but they were not active in the discharge of their duties, nor were the local medical officers who superseded them much better. At length, after the difficulties of the revolutionary period, during which the nurses were the objects of many legislative measures, the Bureau passed, in the year IX. under the administration of the *Conseil general des hospices*; and thus arose the department of "*Le service des enfants assistés*," which, after successive improvements, is now—under the able direction of M. Husson,—popularly known in Paris as the "Bureau Sainte Apolline." To the office of providing nurses for the offspring—entitled *enfants placés*—of parents who pay for their services, is added the whole charge of the class corresponding to our juvenile paupers,—called *enfants assistés*; for though there is no Poor Law in France, provision for the relief of the destitute is made; and all the children thus relieved in Paris are dealt with by the Bureau Ste. Apolline, whether their destitution arise from their being orphans, or from the poverty of their parents, or temporarily from the incapacitation of the latter to support them through being either in hospital or in prison. In any of these cases the destitute child is taken to the Bureau, where he is immediately registered, and a parchment bearing his name and number, with the date, is attached to his arm. If his health demands medical care, he remains until cured at the Hospice of the institution. Otherwise, a small silver medal, bearing on one side the head of St. Vincent de Paul, on the other the child's number, is fixed round his neck, never to be removed until he is six years old, except in extreme cases, and with legal formalities; he is then entrusted to a nurse residing in the country,—a sufficient supply of whom are constantly brought to Paris, under the escort of a *surveillante* to fetch their foster children. These are likewise placed under the close supervision of a medical practitioner, and a *sous-inspecteur*.

Formerly the children were dispersed by the Government institution over twenty-one departments, but the rival demands of the private bureaus restrict them now to five. These are respectively divided into six "*circonscriptions*," at the head of each of which is a *sous-inspecteur*, whose salary varies with the number of children under his care, but must never exceed £140 a year. He acts in unison with the numerous local medical officers, and his duties are multiform. He aids in selecting nurses (giving preference to those who possess a cow or goat); he appoints and must always have ready a *surveillante* to take charge of nurses and children on their journeys to and from Paris; he examines both on their arrival, and ascertains that the child wears its medal; he sees that the medical officers discharge their duty; he must visit every child in his district once in three months, satisfying himself of its welfare, or, if necessary, transferring it to another nurse; and putting himself in communication with the Maire, the Curé, and other principal inhabitants, he must solicit their friendly notice of the children. He also orders, and accounts for, every disbursement; and it is duty to keep the central administration informed of the exact state of each child in his district.

The duties of the medical officer are still more onerous. He must recommend to the *sous-inspecteur* a sufficient number of nurses. He examines every child on its arrival from Paris, entering its condition in a Book; he should visit them monthly, and the nurslings even more frequently; while those who are ill he must attend as often as may be needful, and supply them with medicines, &c., at his own cost. He has to keep the *sous-inspecteur* constantly informed of the state of the children, and to report every three months upon their condition. Also, it devolves upon him to take charge of the belongings of those who die. His payment is twelve francs per annum per child.

The nurse must produce a certificate from the authorities of her Commune that she is married, of good character, and in circumstances to take proper care of a foster-child. She must be between twenty and forty years of age, and is not permitted to take charge of an infant unless her own is nine months old, and has been weaned; she is, moreover, subjected to three distinct medical examinations to test her fitness as wet-nurse.

The rates of payments are, for children aged from one day to twelve months, twelve francs a month—

	Francs.
From 1 to 2 years	10
„ 2 to 4 years	8
„ 4 to 6 years	7
„ 6 to 12 years	6

The nurse is bound to send her foster-child from the age of six to fourteen regularly to school, (the fees being paid by the Bureau), and to receive religious instruction—a certificate that she has done so being required; and those who can produce it, and show that the children received under one year old have been well cared for, and kept free from accident until twelve, obtain a reward of fifty francs for each. Clothing is provided by the Bureau, and its Reports contain the most elaborate tables of the garments supplied at different ages, with minutest calculations—even to thousandth fractions of a franc—of the cost. This amounts to about £1 for the first outfit, and the additional supplies up to five years of age, cost £2 10s. more. From that period, sex is recognised in the distribution of garments,—the boy assumes the lordly pantaloons, and costs henceforth for clothing nearly a third more than the weaker vessel—the respective averages being twenty-six and eighteen francs per annum up to twelve years of age, when the supply ceases. At that age the foster-child is eligible for apprenticeship, and the nurse—or probably her husband—frequently retains it in this relation. No premium is paid, and only in cases of illness any allowance for support, but the employer receives fifty francs for clothing; he has, however, to supply a certain outfit on the expiration of the apprenticeship. Occasionally he foregoes the expenditure of the fifty francs, in which case it is placed in a Savings' Bank as a resource when the young person shall start in life, and he is urged to augment it from his earnings. The *sous-inspecteur* draws up a formal agreement with the employer, and in obedience to rules issued by the Bureau he apprentices the child for only three or four years. At the expiration of this period he makes a new engagement with the same employer, or, if his conduct has been unsatisfactory, another is sought.

The *sous-inspecteur* exercises a constant supervision over the apprentice, and if vicious tendencies appear he first strives to induce him to amend his ways; but if he fail, he causes the youth's removal to the Hospice, whence he is sent to a reformatory,—the girls being analogously disposed of. The proportion, however, who need such discipline is very small, only 58 out of about 10,000, between the ages of ten and twenty-one, who were under the care of the Bureau, having incurred correction in 1864, and those for trifling offences.^a

The average number of children annually relieved by the Bureau in the ten years from 1855 (when the institution was put on its present footing), until 1864 was 21,934, of whom 3535 have been reclaimed by their parents or other relatives; and the average annual expenditure amounted to 2,646,030 francs, or a little under 13 francs for each child relieved, so that it is evident many can have been under the care of the Bureau for only very short periods.

Although the rate of mortality had been steadily diminishing for some years, it was in 1864 for *enfants placés* under one year old above 30 per cent., or rather more than double the normal death-rate for the whole of France!^b Calculated, however, upon the number of *enfants assistés* under twelve years of age, it was 9·17 per cent. for the sickly children detained in the hospice, and 7·96 for the rest sent into the country.^c

Some very startling statistics of the mortality of infants put out to nurse in France, have latterly attracted attention in that country and our own; and lest these results should be confounded with the operations of the Bureau Ste. Apolline, it is incumbent on us to state that the statistics referred to relate, as regards *enfants assistés*, to those in the provinces; and as regards *enfants placés* to those entrusted by their parents to nurses engaged at private bureaux, where the most shocking negligence prevails in selecting them, and whence apparently no supervision at all is exercised over them after their return with their foster children to the country. A government inquiry into this frightful abuse, in 1860, ascertained that infants under one year old were dying at the rate of 58, 70, 87, and even 90 per cent. The superiority of the Bureau Ste. Apolline over the innumerable private offices for providing nurses at Paris, appears from the mournful statement of M. Brochard, that of *all* the children sent out of Paris to be nursed *three quarters die*!^d

It will be now clear to our readers that infant mortality has reached a maximum as frightful among the offspring of parents who are living, and ostensibly their guardians, as among the deserted and orphan children dependent on public charity; and that, moreover, the causes of this appalling destruction of human life are not only preventible, but as regards the latter class in the department of the Seine—namely the *Enfants Assistés* under the care of the Bureau Ste. Apolline,—are to a great degree prevented. The mean death-rate for these children under 12, in the Hospice and in the country, is about 8·77 per cent.^e Perhaps it might be further reduced by more liberal pay to the nurses, and especially to the medical officers, who can hardly for twelve francs a year bestow the needful amount of attention on each little patient. We are inclined also to believe that, were the nurse a freer agent, so that responsibility for the welfare of the infant should rest upon her instead of on the *sous-inspecteur* and the medical officer, which reduces her to the position merely of a servant of the Bureau—she would probably take a more affectionate interest in her nursling, telling favourably on its physical and also, doubtless, on its moral condition. In the latter respect, however, satisfactory results seem already to be obtained.

As we have seen, the proportion of *enfants assistés* incurring reprimand or punishment is very small, although the period during which the department takes cognizance of their conduct extends till they are twenty-one,—a certain amount of control being wisely retained over them until they have reached that age. As regards the important question, whether they really become *grafted*, so to speak, upon the family to which they been entrusted, we are informed by M. Husson, in a letter with which he has favoured us,—“La plupart d’entre eux trouvent ainsi une véritable famille, et des sentiments d’affection réciproque se développent facilement entre les nourriciers et les enfants, surtout quand ces derniers ont été allaités par la femme à laquelle ils ont été confiés.”

The Boarding-out system has approved itself, we may assume, to the highest power in France, as we learn that the Orphanage founded in 1856, in the name of the Prince Imperial and taking its title from him, is conducted entirely on this plan. The results appear to be completely satisfactory.^f

PAUPER CHILDREN BOARDED OUT IN SCOTLAND.

In 1864, the *Workhouse Visiting Journal* printed an abstract of answers to questions submitted by it to Mr. Greig, clerk to the Edinburgh Parochial Board, upon the system adopted by that body in respect to the orphan children under their care; and the document has been since reprinted in various publications. We are enabled, by his courtesy, to give the following fuller information, brought down to the end of 1866:—

^a Rapport sur les enfants assistés. Paris, 1865.

^b Discours sur la mortalité des jeunes enfants, par M. A. Husson. Paris, Baillière et Fils, 1866. This high rate is partly accounted for by the fact that wet-nurses can only be found at a considerable radius from the capital, necessitating a long journey, which, immediately after birth, whatever the season may be, is of course inimical to the infant's life. Rapport sur les enfants assistés, 1866.

^c Rapport, 1865.

^d Gazette des Hôpitaux, 27 Septembre, 1866.

^e Rapport, 1866.

^f Times, August 19, 1863.

“Report by George Greig, Inspector of Poor for the City Parish of Edinburgh, as to the mode of dealing with Orphan Children in that Parish. 1866.

“The pauper children of this parish were formerly maintained in an institution called the Orphan Hospital, apart from the poorhouse, but so dissatisfied was this Board with the results, that about eighteen years ago they resolved to board the children with families in the country, where they might have the physical advantage of the country air, as well as the moral one of being separated from bad associates, and brought into contact with people of good character. This plan has since been followed by all the larger parishes in Scotland; the numbers sent out at present by the parishes of Edinburgh and Leith being upwards of 700, by Glasgow somewhat more, and by Dundee, Aberdeen, and other towns in proportion to their population.

“With the view of securing proper supervision in carrying out the family system, this Board appointed an assistant to the inspector, whose sole duty it is to superintend the children boarded out, both boys and girls, and to find out good nurses for them.

“They are boarded with cottagers, farm servants, or tradespeople, and not with persons who make the care of them their only task.

“Preference is given to people of character who have a steady income apart from the allowance for the board of the children, and who will receive and treat them exactly as members of their own family; and it is found that when the children are sent out young, they learn to call the parties to whom they are sent father and mother.

“They acquire towards them the feelings of children, and the result generally is that the nurses acquire for them a parental affection.

“In selecting nurses for the children the assistant inspector visits the parties who agree to take them (and there are generally plenty of applicants), and makes enquiry in the neighbourhood as to their character; inspects the house as to its accommodation, dryness and ventilation; ascertains if there is a well-taught school in the neighbourhood; and it is only after being satisfied on all these points, that children are sent.

“He afterwards visits the nurse as well as the school at least eight times in the year; satisfies himself that the children are healthy, sufficiently fed, cleanly kept, and their education attended to; and, in addition, the Inspector and Members of the Board, in rotation, visit the whole children boarded out once a year.

“People of excellent moral character are generally got to take charge of the children; but, should inferior persons be, perchance, selected, the close superintendence prevents them from doing injustice. Should neglect occur in any case, however, the children are at once removed; but, although there are about 300 children boarded out, and, some years ago, there were 400, I have only had occasion to remove children, in consequence of neglect on the part of their nurses, on three or four occasions during a period of five years.

“The localities selected are generally small villages at a distance of ten, fifteen, or twenty miles from Edinburgh, and of convenient access by railway; and never more than four children are sent to one family.

“In consequence of our requiring the regular attendance of the children at school, the teacher has to fill up a schedule—showing their progress, and each day’s absence, with the reasons given—which forms a check on the nurse. Our children are consequently the most regular in attendance; are generally the best scholars, carrying off a large share of the school prizes; and when sent to service, prove as good servants as the children of the cottagers or workpeople not dependent on the rates usually do; certainly not inferior, and many of them rise to positions of trust. It is a rare thing for either a boy or a girl, who have been brought up by the Parochial Board in this way, to become chargeable to the parish in after life, which was not the case as to the children who were brought up in the hospital in town.

“In a Report by Mr. Adamson, the able inspector of Glasgow, issued in August, 1864, reference is made to results, equally satisfactory, in the case of the children who had been boarded out and brought up in the same way by this Board. He gives the following return as to the subsequent history of the children who had been boarded out and brought up in the same way by his Board:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Residing in Glasgow,	53	82	135
Residing in other parishes,	128	112	240
			<hr/> 375
Occupied at trades,	64	11	75
Occupied at weaving and factory work,	22	54	76
			<hr/> 151
Domestic servants,	0	125	125
Farm servants	66	0	66
Clerks,	12	0	12
Miners,	17	0	17
Sailors,	3	0	3
Soldiers,	1	0	1
			<hr/> 375
Characters good,	182	180	362
Characters bad,	2	11	13
Dead,	6	5	11
In poorhouse,	2	4	6
Convicted of crime,	1	4	5
			<hr/> 397

"The Board pays to the nurse, for each child sent to board, two shillings and sixpence a week, which covers board, lodging, washing, and mending. The Board, in addition, provides clothing, which is sent from the poorhouse, of a good quality, and not uniform in colour or kind; and also pays the fees to the schoolmaster, the same as paid by the children of the district. In cases of sickness, which is rare, the nurse obtains the services of a medical man in the district, for which the Board pays. The total amount of all these charges for each child, for the past year, including the salary of the assistant inspector and all expenses connected with the children, was £8 10s. 10d.

"It is the nurse's duty to take the children with her to the church which she attends, to see they attend the Sabbath school, and study their lessons, and, in short, to deal with them in every way as if they were her own; and with the view of extending the benefits of the domestic influence on the children beyond the period when the Board has charge of them, we get the nurses to find apprenticeships for the boys, and service for the girls, as much as possible, with employers in their own neighbourhood, so that the children may have an opportunity of visiting their nurses on the Saturday afternoons, or at other times when they get liberty; and, in these cases, the nurse continues her care over them, and washes and mends their clothes when necessary, for which they remunerate her.

"On such visits the children are received with friendly welcome as if it were their home; and they thus contract the habit of returning to it at intervals, assured of meeting with advice in difficulties, sympathy in distress, and heart-felt congratulations on success.

"In the event of a boy or girl having to leave their service, through sickness or otherwise, they return to their nurse's house, and are often supported there for months, without any remuneration ever being asked from the Board. Should the nurse, however, not be in a position to do this, or wish assistance, the Board readily grants it, but this is seldom asked.

"Many cases have come to my knowledge, where the child has in after life contributed towards the support of the nurse.

"The children are sent to board at all ages, but the younger they are sent so much the better.

"If sent when at the breast, the nurse cannot help having a strong affection for them. In those cases where the children are ten or eleven years of age, before they have come on the Parish, and whose previous training has been vicious, the same good results cannot be looked for; still, it is found that a religious education, kindness, and the moral influence of their new friends and associates, do much for them.

"Cases have occurred where such have acted well so long as under these influences, but on return to town, and meeting old friends, have fallen back into their old habits; hence this class are sent to the most distant localities, and situations are found for them, in the district if possible, so that they may not be again brought into contact with old associates.

"The children thus brought up, are not only well educated, but understand and can discharge the various duties in a household, which children brought up in a school or hospital know nothing of; hence our children are preferred as servants and apprentices, to the children brought up in the various hospitals in this city, at a cost of as much as £50 a year each.

"We are still compelled to have a number of children in the Poorhouse, when their parents are in gaol, or in sickness, and therefore the chargeability merely casual; and amongst them we daily see the evil effects of having a larger number of such children congregated together, as not only do they encourage each other in present evil, but the fact of being inmates of such a place has a debasing influence on their after life.

"The evils attending the rearing of children in workhouses are well described in an article in the *Journal of the Workhouse Visiting Society* for September 1861. It states,—'The main objection to workhouse schools are, 1st, the keeping up a condition of pauperism in the children by the associations of the workhouse; 2nd, the impossibility of teaching useful knowledge to fit the children for practical life, without the contamination of the adult. Communication with the adults and the influence of the low tone of morality of pauperism are inevitable. The mere learning in school is insufficient to overcome it, and the teachers strive against it in vain.'

"The danger here adverted to, of keeping alive the spirit of pauperism, is one which this Board has had particularly in view, and against which it has felt too many precautions could not be taken. In a large adjoining parish in Edinburgh, the managers or Guardians, some years ago, arranged a plan by which they personally visited the children, after they had been sent to service, and endeavoured to exercise a care over them; but it was found that the personal intercourse thus maintained by these parochial gentlemen, had the effect of keeping up in the children a feeling of their connection with the parish, and a depressing consciousness of dependence which was quite opposed to individual effort, and consequently to success in life.

"In fact, the blight of pauperism extended over, and deprived of beneficial influence, all these friendly communications, often well meant and attended with no small trouble on the part of the gentleman who engaged in it, and the plan had consequently to be relinquished. The cause of this want of success it is easy to discover. It was that these gentlemen in a higher station, having no connection with the children excepting that they were members of the parish Board, instead of forming a link between the child and the

kindly influences of home which the nurse can do, kept up a connection between the child and its former condition of pauperism, degrading it in its own eyes, and, when known to its fellows, subjecting it to their scorn.

"When a child is sent young to the country, or has been there for some time, and is taught to look on its nurse as its parent—I say parent, as we transact with the wife as the party having immediate charge, but the husband takes an equal interest in the child, and is equally regarded by it,—and when the nurses are themselves quite independent of the parish, the child regards itself as a member of the family, its connection with the parish is neither felt nor understood; and I have often found that the only idea it had, was a vague one that the assistant inspector, who called so frequently, had somehow some charge over it, but it had no idea that it was a pauper; and would treat with the same horror and contempt, as is entertained by the respectable working people, a proposal to remove it to the workhouse.

"This removal of the consciousness of a state of dependence on the parish, and the engendering of a spirit of self reliance which is cherished by the class with whom the children are brought into contact, is a sure means of preventing them from lapsing into a state of hereditary pauperism; a result which can be obtained by no method that I am aware of but the family system adopted by this Board.

"In adopting this system, in restoring, as it were, the lost link, and giving these poor children new parents and homes with their sacred influences and endearing ties and associations, this Board is persuaded that they are acting in accordance with a law ordained by Him who has framed the moral government of the world; and the results obtained in the moral elevation and excellent education of the children, in adapting them for the duties they will be called on to discharge, in the position of life they are likely to occupy, have been such as might have been expected from a plan thus solemnly sanctioned."

Confirmation of this favourable Report by Mr. Greig—so far as she has had opportunities of observing—is communicated to us by a lady, who for many years has been led by her philanthropic labours among the working people of Edinburgh and the adjacent counties. She has thus become acquainted with some of the cottage orphans, and all of those she has known have been well treated by their nurses, and, so far as she is aware, have prospered in after-life. One of them, a foundling girl, became so dear to her foster-parents that when the Board ceased to pay for her they would not part with her, keeping her in their house till she was old enough for good service. "She was for six or seven years housemaid to my aunt," writes our informant, "and has since her death been in other good places, and is a clean notable servant. That poor family are so fond of her that the daughter used to tell me her old mother gazed at her as if she were a lovely picture every time she got out to see them; and the grandson considered her quite as an aunt."

Another correspondent—Dr. Browne, Commissioner in Lunacy—who has peculiar opportunities for investigation, having had his attention requested to the subject, has satisfied himself by observation and inquiry, that although the benevolent advocate, and we believe author of the plan, Mr. Greig, may view the system itself and its results under a somewhat rose-coloured aspect, yet it is assuredly a success. The benefit resulting from the natural cottage life, as compared with the artificial existence within workhouse walls, he regards as incalculable; but the cottager class have failings, nay vices, of their own to be guarded against, and probably those are exceptional members of it only who are desirable as foster-parents. Moreover, a closer and more constant supervision he holds to be needful to prevent abuse. "To formularize my convictions," he concludes, "I should say that the system of boarding-out has been fairly tried, has been found satisfactory, and that if worked out and developed, it is calculated to enfeeble and perhaps ultimately to eradicate the pauper tendency; but that it may still be regarded as in progress, imperfect, and *sub judice*."

From the Report containing the satisfactory statistics quoted by Mr. Greig, relating to children placed in families by the Glasgow Parochial Board, we learn that this system has been pursued there for upwards of a hundred years; and although the late Chairman of the Children's Committee "had at one time a strong feeling in favour of a large establishment where our orphan and deserted children could be kept and properly trained; and collected all the information he could from similar institutions, both in this country and elsewhere, he never felt justified in proposing an alteration of our present system."^a

"The family circle," continues the Report, "is the most natural one for the bringing up and training of children. It is of Divine appointment; and, in their humble endeavours to follow out this plan, the Committee feel confident they are more likely to succeed than by congregating a great number of children in an orphanage, where one wicked, bad child may be the means of corrupting many; while in a family, under the eye of a judicious and vigilant nurse, where there are only one or two children, perhaps only one, a bad child is all but incapable of doing injury to others..... The children do not certainly come in from school or play with that precise, demure, and well-disciplined appearance that you find in a well-managed orphanage; but what pleases the Committee more, they appear with a buoyancy of spirit, a confidence of manner, and a happiness of countenance, which show that they are at home, are happy, and well cared for."^b

Mr. Beattie, who holds the same office in the Barony Parish that Mr. Adamson does in the City Parish of Glasgow, relates a touching incident, illustrative of the strong attachment which grows up between the foster-parents and children. A child who had been placed to board with a woman in his district was subsequently discovered to have its settlement in Edinburgh, whither the parochial Board of

^a Report on the City Parish, Glasgow, Relief Rolls, by E. Adamson, Inspector of Poor, August, 1864.

^b Ibid.

that city directed it should be removed. The foster-mother hearing that the child was to be taken from her, repaired in the utmost distress to Mr. Beattie, and besought him to obtain a reversal of the order. He explained to her that this was impossible; when falling on her knees, the tears streaming down her cheeks, she implored him to let her keep the child as her own, without payment, for part with it she could not. And it was accordingly adopted by her.

The boarding-out system is pursued, as we have seen, by the parochial authorities at Aberdeen, where it has the approval of the benevolent and sagacious Sheriff Watson. He, however, is of opinion that simply official supervision exercised over the children, however conscientiously performed, is insufficient; and that a well-organised visiting society of ladies would be a valuable improvement.

PAUPER CHILDREN BOARDED OUT BY POOR LAW GUARDIANS IN ENGLAND.

SOME ten years since the Guardians of Leominster Union adopted the boarding-out system for the orphans, both boys and girls, under their care, as a means of rescuing them from the contamination of the workhouse; and they are well satisfied with the plan which they still pursue. About 150 children have thus been dealt with, and seventeen are at the present time (May, 1867), in cottage homes. They are placed in superior cottages only, where they will have good domestic training; and attendance at school is expressly stipulated for. The payment is two shillings and sixpence a-week, if the foster-parent provides clothes, and two shillings where these are supplied by the Board. The Relieving Officers superintend the orphans, and in case of complaint the child and its foster-parent are brought before the Board. Most of the young people eventually go to service, and it is believed that the domestic knowledge they have gained procures for them better situations than they would otherwise obtain. These are usually found for them by their foster-parents, the sanction of the Guardians being, however, required before an engagement is made.

The history of the efforts to secure the best attainable training for the children under their care, made by the Guardians of Eton Union, while highly honourable, to them, is peculiarly instructive in our present investigation. In Mr. Tuffnell's report for 1862 we find the school of that Union described as admirable in every department, so far as could be ascertained by two independent inspectors—himself and the Diocesan School Inspector; while the success of the pupils in the Diocesan Prize Association seemed to afford a further proof of the excellence of their training. "Any one," says Mr. Tuffnell, "reading the above account, might possibly conclude that the school was perfection; and it may excite some surprise when I state that, on close examination, the school appeared in so unsatisfactory a condition that it was determined to break it up and send all the children to the Central London District School, where they now are; and I fully concurred in this decision of the Guardians."

Before arriving at this determination the Guardians had caused a Return to be made, showing the particulars, so far as they were known, of all the children placed out as servants or apprentices from January 1st, 1858, to December 31st, 1861. More than 40 per cent. had turned out ill!

"Towards the close of 1863, however, we find the Guardians again dissatisfied with the position of their children. Their health was not good, and the cost of their maintenance at the district school was almost double that in the workhouse, while many of the evils of the latter were not avoided. The Guardians resolved upon a second change, and addressed a letter to the Poor Law Board explanatory of their reasons—an abstract of which will be found in a Report published by them last year.^a The industrial training in the larger institution is admitted to be superior, but "in the one school as in the other, children are brought up under conditions the very reverse of those, which, by the very constitution of human society and by the experience of all time, are pointed out as naturally best adapted for the development of the child's powers physical, intellectual, and moral." Contrasting *family* life—of which habits of observation and self-government are the natural result, and where the child "learns to bear and forbear, to seek help and to give it, to suffer and to enjoy, and out of many failures to act, as out of many falls he learns to walk,"—with life in the workhouse, where, amid the four whitewashed walls of the "nursery" and the four brick walls of the "yard," the "same objects and the same faces come before the eye day after day, the same events repeat themselves at the same hours with the wearying monotony of a well-ordered system," they declare the latter to be "as unfavourable to healthy moral growth as to vigorous development of the physical and intellectual powers."

Passing from the Workhouse to the District School, the child "is once more in an atmosphere of mechanical routine and of compulsory discipline, as different as can well be conceived from that of the family—or from those conditions of outward life, upon which at fourteen years of age, or it may be a year or two later, it will suddenly enter," when it goes forth into actual social life. "With a training so wholly unnatural," the Eton Guardians conclude, "it is rather matter for wonder that any should turn out well, than that many should turn out very ill."

Their experience of the District, as of the Workhouse, School having proved unsatisfactory, they were utterly at a loss what course to adopt. At length it occurred to them to place the children to board with respectable cottagers. Suitable homes were found upon the following terms:—The Guardians were to allow three shillings and sixpence a week, to be paid weekly by the Relieving Officer for board and lodging. They were to provide an outfit of clothing, and after the expiration of three months six shillings; and sixpence quarterly was to be paid in advance for wardrobe expenses; or, at their option, the Guardians would supply fresh clothes,—these in either case to be considered the property of the Board. The children

^a *Home Training for Pauper Children.* Printed by E. Herbert, Slough, 1866.

were to attend a Sunday school where practicable, to be sent regularly to school on week days (the fees being paid by the Guardians) until the age of thirteen, when they might be employed for wages in any labour approved by the Guardians, two-thirds of the wages to be deducted by the Relieving Officer from his weekly payments, and the remaining one-third to be the property of the person having charge of the child, in compensation for the extra expense in food and clothing its employment might entail.

The Report from which we quote was issued after a three years' trial of the plan. Experience had led the Guardians to add to the supervision of the Relieving Officer, by a visit to the children, at least twice a year, from members of their own body, who should in writing state their condition,—this report to be supplemented, if possible, by a similar one from the clergyman of the parish in which the children are placed. From the latest return, dated October, 1866, we learn there were then thirty-four children placed out. Opposite to each name we find a short report on the condition of the child, made after personal inspection, by either a guardian or a clergyman, uniformly satisfactory as regards the conduct of the children, and in only two instances pointing out anything to be remedied in their treatment. A visit we have ourselves recently paid (without appointment, that it might not be prepared for) to some of the Eton children, confirmed our already favourable opinion of the boarding-out system, as good for both mind and body, and affording a wholesome training for after life.

The total cost of the children, when at Hanwell, amounted to an average of 8s. per week each; in the workhouse it had been 4s. 2½d., while in the cottage it is 4s. 2d. To the latter must be added the outfit of clothes, with a box, a bible, and a prayer-book, supplied to each child when put out to board, and an annual gratuity of £5 to the Relieving Officers for their extra trouble. "These charges, however, are far more than met," the Report informs us, "by the sums received on account of wages earned by some of the older children, which have amounted in the last three years to £121 0s. 6d."

The School Committee, in their Report, discuss the important question of the *class* of children whom it is desirable to board out; and with reference to the illegitimate and deserted, state that, although it would be greatly to their advantage to be thus dealt with, they agree with the Poor Law Board that the spectacle of such children being brought up under the favourable circumstances now enjoyed in the Eton Union by the orphans of respectable parents, would have an effect injurious to the morality of the lower classes (an opinion from which we must dissent), and for them they recommend a small district school, such as that at Cowley; while they advise that children admitted with their parents, temporarily, into the workhouse should remain there. In conclusion, the committee "express their strong conviction that the system adopted by this Board is greatly to be preferred both to the old workhouse school, and to the district schools, such as those at Hanwell and Norwood. How far what has been done here can be done, or is desirable to be done elsewhere, it is not for this committee to judge. But the unanimous votes by which, without one exception for the last three years, they have been supported by the Guardians of this Union, give your committee the great satisfaction of knowing that their own opinion of the value of our present system is shared by all those in whose name they are privileged to act."

CONCLUSION.

It remains now shortly to review the various means we have described for training juvenile paupers; and in doing so—while recognising the probability that different methods may be found efficacious in different localities—the gauge by which we purpose to estimate their intrinsic value will be their greater or less success in attaining these two results:—

1st, That of depauperising the children by enabling them to take their place on an equal footing among the honest and industrious of the labouring classes; 2nd, Of securing to them the friendly interest in their welfare, after they have gone into the world, of persons able to afford them the protection and advice needful to sustain them amid the temptations and difficulties with which they will inevitably be beset.

That schools attached to workhouses fail to any practical extent to attain these objects we assume to be a generally admitted fact; and regard their continuance as only to be accounted for on the hypothesis that they are believed to be cheaper than any other system. But even in actual expenditure it would appear that the boarding-out system, and still more markedly that of apprenticeship to manufacturers, is less costly; while the future tax upon rate-payers by the return of the pupils upon their hands as permanent paupers, or upon the country at large by their sinking into the criminal class, or even the loss only of their worth to the community as producers, is to be estimated, not by a few pence more or less a-week, but by hundreds of pounds. "Every able-bodied pauper, Mr. Chadwick calculates, who enters on life without the will or the power to earn a living, must cost the community, at the lowest estimate, £400, at the rate of £10 a-year for the forty years which the Insurance Tables give as the probable duration of his life from the adolescent stage. The value of his wages for the same period would, at the average rate of £30 a-year, be £1200. Thus, between the productive labourer and one of the class for whom Mr. Chadwick revives the expressive old English word of 'wastrels,' there is a difference of £1600. If the pauper turns vagrant, he will levy contributions in a different manner, but to a greater extent. If he turns thief there is no assigning their limit."^a Further, it should be borne in mind that—as Miss Twining has wisely remarked—the better the school as regards kindness towards its pupils the more will these cling to it as "home"—and this certainly is the very last association with the workhouse, with which we should wish to inspire the young pauper. Under every aspect, therefore, we must regard workhouse schools as failures, and their abolition to be earnestly desired.

^a *Quarterly Review*, Oct., 1861.

In many respects apprenticeship to manufacturers under the conditions of the experiments made at L—, and N—, seems to ensure the two results we have defined as the standard of success. But we have seen that more recent attempts have proved less satisfactory; and the experience of the Messrs. Whitworth tends to show that under the present limitation of the hours of work of children in factories, their labour will not wholly remunerate employers for their maintenance, rendering necessary a subsidy from Guardians. Such children would now to a certain extent be protected from ill-usage by the Acts regulating the treatment generally of juvenile workers in factories; but their welfare is still largely dependent, not only on the conscientiousness, but on the good sense of their employers; and Guardians are undoubtedly under a heavy moral responsibility to ascertain that these qualities are not wanting in those to whom they apprentice the children under their care. We would fain see, moreover, some legal power created by which the conditions of the agreement entered into by the manufacturer may be readily enforced or redress for their violation obtained.

A Separate School, judged by the Children's Establishment at Limehouse, may succeed to a great degree in depauperising its pupils; while the large staff of officers, and small number (as compared with those in District Schools) of children congregated together, affords opportunity for individualisation, which—among its many excellences—includes that of engendering a mutual affection between teacher and pupil, and a strong interest on the teacher's part in the child's future welfare, leading to practical effort—in the form of correspondence or visits—to maintain a wholesome influence over it in after life. Still, it must be admitted that those objections which are intensified in proportion with the denseness of the masses of children assembled under one roof, affect in a minor degree Separate Schools; and we fear some of these establishments are in a far less satisfactory state than that at Limehouse.

The very elaboration and perfection of arrangement,—usually regarded as an advantage,—incidental to the large numbers dealt with in a District School, are, we must consider, even an aggravation of the evils inseparable from vast establishments; and peculiarly inimical to one of the principal objects we have suggested as essential in the training of pauper children. The Secretary of the Rescue Society tells us of a girl brought up in a District School, and who falling into vice was received into one of the Society's Homes, who actually cried because she was required to carry water upstairs—hot and cold water having, she said, been laid on all over the building in which she had grown up. The further the life of these young people differs from that of the work-a-day world, the more difficult will they find it to accommodate themselves to its demands when they go forth into it to earn their living; and an establishment where food and every other necessary of life presents itself as a matter of course, where accomplished servants perform the difficult work, and where, above all, the children engross the care and attention of a large staff of officers to whom they have no natural duties to render in return,—an establishment such as this cannot, we aver, duly prepare its inmates to take and hold their place among our working classes: while to retain an influence over its pupils beyond the age of sixteen does not (with the exception we believe of the North Surrey School) appear even to form part of its plan. Mr. Edwards, indeed, in the Letter to the President of the Poor Law Board already quoted, proposed that children sent to service from the Central London School, and having no relations to go to when out of place, should be permitted to return to the school, performing while there the duties of domestic servants, and receiving clothes and rations but no wages. He had good ground for believing that these young persons would be much sought for by employers requiring older servants than the pupils when first placed out, and that the plan would result in an actual saving to the Poor's rates. We regret that it has not been tried.

It is said, on high authority, that the inmates of such institutions need more bodily sustenance than children brought up under the conditions appointed by nature;^a just as prisoners require better food than free men to keep them in health and strength. It would appear that the artificial constraint in both cases, acting through the mind upon the body, involves a waste of power, demanding in compensation extra diet.

The cost, as we have seen, of some of the district schools is excessive, and has apparently had the effect predicted of greatly limiting their adoption. In twenty-five years only six have been established, receiving barely 3000 children, at an annual average expense per head of £19 18s. 7d.^b

In the Norwich Homes we find an institution established by the Guardians, and completely under their control, in which a certain degree of family life is combined with a method for *planting-out* the boys—so to speak—among the working population, and for giving to the girls some portion of individual training in ordinary domestic work. The results, measured by our standard, are satisfactory; and there is, moreover, an absolute saving in money to the ratepayers. Admission to the Homes, however, is not granted to those whose parents are casual inmates of the workhouse, an arrangement which usually exposes them to more association with the adults than where the children of all classes are retained in the house. But for this serious drawback, we should rejoice to hear of the extension of the Norwich plan. Might not the Homes be copied, and some fitting arrangement be made—a Probationary Home, perhaps, for those children to whom, often alas! their parents are not a blessing but a curse?

^a "The loss of the freedom of home, the absence of the care of parents, and the deadening influence of unexercised affections, entirely counterbalance the supposed advantages in food, air, and clothing." Report on the general sanitary condition of Cowley Industrial School, by Henry W. Ackland, M.D., Regius Professor of Medicine in the University of Oxford. Printed by desire of the Oxford Guardians. Oxford and London, J. H. & J. Parker, 1863.

Dr. Acland is speaking of a Separate School, and, by a subsequent passage in his Report, appears to think that District Schools avoid the evils he indicates. It seems to us, however, inevitable that the unfavourable characteristics he enumerates should attach equally to the larger institutions and even with increased intensity.

^b Eighteenth Annual Report of the Poor Law Board.

Industrial Training Homes established by private individuals (like that at Brockham, &c.), of which nine or ten (besides several institutions for idiots, and for the deaf, dumb, and blind) have been certified under the 25th and 26th Vict., Cap. 43,^a are most valuable institutions, attaining, we are convinced, a large measure of success in the objects we esteem essential. But it must be remembered that they deal, to a certain extent, with selected cases, that they depend for very existence on the exceptional benevolence and capacity of individuals, at whose death they are liable utterly to collapse; while even Mrs. Way herself—their unwearied advocate, and most munificent and devoted patroness—believes their costliness must render their general adoption impracticable,^b and almost preclude them from dealing at all with young children. Their multiplication we earnestly desire; but we have no hope of its ever proving commensurate with the want they aim at supplying. The same may be said of Miss Twining's Home for older girls. It is the only institution of its kind yet opened, and receives forty inmates; while thousands of young women must assuredly—so long as workhouses remain what they are—need the help it affords.

We have now to consider the Boarding-out System, which we have described in much detail, and as existing in several countries. It has been pursued long enough, and under sufficiently varied circumstances to reveal its excellencies; and for us to estimate how far the defects disclosed are capable of removal or amendment. In Ireland, as a purely voluntary enterprise, it has attained marked success and won general approval; while in Scotland it has been widely adopted, and entirely administered by the parochial authorities. Of their satisfaction with it, under both a moral and pecuniary aspect, we are informed; and have seen that it has obtained also the qualified approbation of disinterested but peculiarly competent observers, who are of opinion that an admixture of voluntary agency, including some additional supervision by ladies, would render it still more efficient.

In the United States we learn that it has been for many years adopted by voluntary workers, and by semi-official labourers in reformatory schools and cognate institutions. In France we observe it to be largely practised by a department of the State; and where successfully pursued—under the administration, namely, of the Bureau Ste. Apolline—we learn that voluntary aid is invoked in the form of sympathy and friendly supervision from persons of social eminence residing in the neighbourhood of the children's homes.

In Germany we find distinguished men, whose opinions founded on official knowledge carry just weight, approving the plan,—particularly with reference to girls; and there also we see independent philanthropists, who have made the salvation of destitute children their special mission, elevating the influence of domestic life above every other agency that can be brought to bear for their reclamation.

We learn that the same system is pursued in Russia in the disposal of orphans; and, as regards *them*, it would appear successfully. The neglect of their own offspring by the foster-mothers is a result too shocking to be compensated by any advantage to the alien child; but by regulating the payment so that it shall afford no temptation to cupidity, this evil, as we have seen by the experience of other countries, and markedly of Germany and Ireland, is avoided. That the foster-parents should not be out of pocket by their acceptance of an orphan is, we are persuaded, all that should be aimed at in apportioning their remuneration. Food, clothing, and shelter, may be paid for by the State; but the love, watchfulness, and sympathy which are equally essential to a child's welfare should be the far more precious contribution of the foster-parent; and in this, truly, the giver and the receiver are equally blessed. Such feelings may reveal themselves in care for the daily comfort and little pleasures of their object, as well as in providing for its moral and spiritual advantage. We have rarely witnessed a more touching scene than presented itself in the modest home of one of the little orphans we have already referred to as placed to board in an English cottage—the abode of two old maids. They doat upon the child, and she has become to them the very light of their house. The joyous pride is not to be described with which they displayed her neatly-arranged clothing, the patchwork they taught her to make, the mittens she had knitted for them and herself, the umbrella they had persuaded her to save her pence to buy, and which was to protect the pretty little hat into which a well-worn bonnet of their own had been converted,—a little history of kindness attaching to almost every garment; for though all substantial requirements are provided by the Guardians, there is still ample scope for affection to employ itself in making up the material invitingly, and adding the various *et ceteras* which mark the difference between the little pauper in its dull uniform, and the well-cared for cottage child. The orphan in question peculiarly illustrates the beneficial working of the boarding-out system. An illegitimate child, she was about at her mother's death to be consigned to the workhouse when a lady in the neighbourhood obtained permission to place her in a cottage, the Board of Guardians allowing her out-door relief. An aunt in service at a distance had come to attend the mother's funeral, and the child's patroness appealed to her to contribute to its maintenance. Thankful that the little creature should be saved from the workhouse, she gladly agreed to give a shilling a week,—a large sum for her, and has transmitted this money ever since, not only cheerfully, but with expressions of the warmest gratitude to the benevolent suggester of the plan. The woman is deeply interested in her niece's welfare, with whom a natural and wholesome connexion is maintained; whereas, if the little thing had gone into the workhouse, her relative would probably have felt ashamed of, or even forgotten, her. We make a great mistake, as the child's patroness remarked to us, in assuming that pauper orphans are isolated beings without relatives in the world. They are rarely thus destitute; and frequently have connexions able, if not to support them entirely, at least to help in their maintenance. But they reside perhaps at a distance from the place where the parents die, and unless there is some one sufficiently interested in the child to appeal to their better feelings in its behalf, they remain neglectful, or perhaps even ignorant of its bereavement; it drifts into the workhouse, becoming a heavy burden on the ratepayers during its childhood, and too often a disgrace to its family and its country for the rest of its life.

^a Seventeenth and Eighteenth Reports of the Poor Law Board.

^b Evidence before the Poor Relief Committee, 1861.

When the time arrives for the little maiden, whose history we have sketched, to go to service, her patroness trusts the aunt will seek for her a place and keep her under her eye; but should this not come to pass, we can hardly doubt that she will have the friendship and protection, as long as they live, of the two women to whom she is now as a beloved child.

We could not, however, conscientiously advocate the boarding-out system unless it be accompanied with constant and active supervision. This the authorities assure us is amply exercised by officials in those districts where the plan has originated with Boards of Guardians. But zealous and kindhearted as the officers appointed to this important duty may be, it must be performed by them to a greater or less degree as a matter of routine; the time of their visits of inspection may generally be calculated, and these cannot be sufficiently frequent to prevent, at any rate, the *possibility* of ill-usage. Moreover, a man, however thoughtful for the children's welfare, does not possess the knowledge of their wants and difficulties which comes to a woman almost intuitively; and to supplement, therefore, official authority by the friendly watchfulness which a woman of superior social position, residing within easy reach of the orphan's home, can exercise, appears to us the keystone of the system, ensuring to it public confidence and permanent success.

Those who, like ourselves, had the privilege of hearing the late Prince Consort deliver the inaugural address at the conference on National Education held in June, 1857, will not have forgotten his touching reference to the share taken by the poor man's children in the support and care of his household. "The daughters especially," said the benevolent and enlightened speaker, "are the handmaids of the house, the assistants of the mother, the nurses of the younger children, the aged and the sick."^a

Treating the same subject Miss Carpenter remarks, "The girl is especially adapted by nature for a home. The affections have large sway over her whole being. Nature has given her varied scope for them in the true home. She is the object of the tender love of the parents, and of her brothers and sisters, and love is constantly awakened and called out by her position in the family. She has the babies to fondle and nurse like a little mother herself; she has a thousand household cares to attend to, and learns cooking practically while she helps to get her father's dinner; and, if the eldest girl, feels herself a very important help in the house. After going regularly to a good day-school, and learning needlework, and enough of reading, writing, and arithmetic for all common purposes, she is prepared at fourteen to take her humble position in life as a little servant, or her mother's helper and right hand, and to fill it with credit. A real good home is infinitely better than any school for the education of girls,—even a second-rate or a third-rate one is preferable. There her true nature is developed, and, unless she is thus prepared to fill its duties well in after life, all other teaching is comparatively useless."^b The passages just cited speak only of young persons dwelling with their parents, but they are equally applicable to foster-children; and if, thus accustomed to the duties, hardships and pleasures of ordinary life, these could have the additional boon of one or two years training at an Industrial Home, in the branches of domestic work it must be able to perform in a gentleman's house, it appears to us that a future career of usefulness and respectability would be, in the present lack of servants, almost absolutely ensured to it. The Industrial Home would thus take the place of a "finishing school;" and we would complete the analogy by permitting the pupil, where practicable, to return for occasional short holidays to its cottage home, that the family bond, on which we count so much for its future guidance and protection, might not be severed.

The want of skilled servants is daily making itself more and more felt. The demand increases while the supply, from various causes, as markedly diminishes. "The greatest step taken will be," says a writer discussing this fact in the *Edinburgh Review*, "when we can raise the lowest social class into the late position of that which is escaping from our command,—when we can replenish domestic service from schools which will have rescued pauper and ragged children from pauperism and raggedness."^c The 12,000 pauper orphans thrown annually on our care, may be regarded at once as the *élite* and the most manageable of that class; and they afford a stock of raw material from which we may hope, by due training and the development of their moral nature, to replace the capable and attached servants who are finding their way into other paths of life.

An objection to the Boarding-out system to which we have already referred, namely the insufficiency of good cottage homes, is, we ourselves believe, from inquiry and observation, ill grounded; and the experience of those benevolent persons who have introduced the plan in various parts of England strengthens that conviction. All who are intimately acquainted with our humbler brethren (whose generosity in giving far exceeds that of the wealthy classes) are aware it is no unusual circumstance for a child who loses its parents to be spontaneously received into another family. Again, it must be remembered that where Mrs. Archer's scheme is adopted the very presence of the orphan will tend to improve the cottage in which it is placed, by laying it open to the inspection of a person whose good opinion the cottager will be anxious to preserve; while the orphan will in some respects enjoy even an advantage over the offspring of the cottager, namely in its regular attendance at school, and still more in the fact that it is an object of interest to a neighbour of superior position who is responsible for its welfare, and able to remove it if the circumstances of its home are unfavourable.

But, if, on a general adoption of the system, good homes should not be found in sufficient abundance, they might be supplemented by a plan which suggested itself many years ago to the Dean of Bristol, and which is recommended also by Canon Moseley, whose long experience as a School Inspector renders his

^a *The Principal Speeches and Addresses of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort.* London, John Murray, 1862.

^b *Social Science Transactions*, 1862.

^c *Edinburgh Review*, April, 1862.

sanction invaluable. Canon Moseley, we may add, entirely approves Mrs. Archer's scheme for boarding children in cottages, which has been in satisfactory operation in his own parish for two years, under the supervision of his wife and daughters. "It struck me," the Dean informs us, "when brought in contact with sundry country schools, that it might be possible to graft on them a boarding system, the boarders to be children who would otherwise be in poorhouses. I assumed that there might easily be found among the country schools, a very considerable number of schoolmasters and schoolmistresses who were quite capable of undertaking the care of boarders. I felt that it would be a very great advantage to the pauper children to be thus dispersed in country homes,—not the least being that they would by natural process be absorbed into the labour market. I thought also that the guardians might be induced to grant such allowance with the children as would enable many a school to struggle out of present difficulty, and as might perhaps be conducive to bring others into existence. Superintendence would have to be provided, but that is already given in most agricultural schools by the clergy and other friends."

An objection to the plan as advocated by Mrs. Archer has been raised by the Poor Law Board itself, on the ground that it affords no sufficient guarantee for the protection and welfare of the children. Far be it from us to deprecate the closest watchfulness on the part of the central as of the local authorities over the young people for whom they are responsible to their country, and to God. We think, however, that this objection must have been advanced without due inquiry into the provisions of the scheme; and we cannot but discern a sad mockery in such an argument when proceeding from those who for thirty years have been cognizant of the destruction awaiting young girls thrust among the adult inmates of workhouses, and yet have been satisfied by offering a "recommendation,"—rarely acted upon—to local Boards, to provide a separate ward for these innocent and helpless creatures. The insufficiency of the objection will be felt when it is remembered that Mrs. Archer's plan can be worked only with the consent and co-operation of the Guardians who must be either already acquainted with, or perfectly capable of ascertaining, the estimation in which any lady applying to them for permission to undertake the care of orphans, is held; and to whom her social position is a guarantee of her competence to the charge.

But if the Central Authorities be still dubious of the security offered, we have seen by the example of the Berlin Poor Law Board how the invaluable benefit of voluntary supervision may be combined with responsibility to an official head. Already in our own country, ladies in their corporate capacity as members of Committees of industrial and reformatory schools, by accepting a Government certificate for those institutions, place themselves in an official relation of responsibility to the State; and we see no reason why the same principle should not work successfully if applied to Associations for befriending pauper orphans; or even to individuals labouring for this object.

Increasing faith in the healthful influence of family-life is revealing itself in many directions, and under conditions where we certainly were unprepared to find it. Dr. Howe, the distinguished American Physician—whose development of the mental powers of the blind deaf-mute, Laura Bridgman, has obtained world-wide fame—has come, after many years experience, to regard the assemblage in institutions of any class of sufferers as an evil which must be modified by every means in our power; and, if possible, altogether avoided. At a recent public meeting he said, "I not only organised the first [Institution for the Blind] in the United States, the main features in the administration of which have been widely copied, but laboured with more zeal than knowledge to induce people to found others; and made direct efforts to the Legislatures of a dozen different States to appropriate money for their support I accept my full share of condemnation when I say that grave errors were incorporated into the very organic principles of our institutions for the blind, which make them already too much like asylums; which threaten to cause real asylums to grow out of them, and to engender other evils. . . . All great establishments, in the nature of boarding schools, where the sexes must be separated; where there must be boarding in common and sleeping in congregate dormitories; where there must be routine, and formality, and restraint, and repression of individuality; where the charms and refining influences of the true family relation cannot be had,—all such institutions are unnatural, undesirable, and very liable to abuse. We should have as few of them as is possible, and those few should be kept as small as possible. . . . We should be cautious about establishing artificial communities, or those approaching them in character, for any children and youth; but more especially should we avoid them for those who have any natural infirmity; or any marked peculiarity of mental organisation. . . . Separation, and not congregation should be the law of their treatment As much as may be surround insane and excitable persons with sane people, and ordinary influences; vicious children with virtuous people and virtuous influences; blind children with those who see; mute children with those who speak, and the like. . . . Beware how you sever any of those ties of family, of friendship, of neighbourhood, *during the period of their strongest growth*, lest you make a homeless man, a wanderer and a stranger. Especially beware how you cause him to neglect forming early relations of affection with those whose sympathy and friendship will be most important to him during life, to wit, those who have all their senses; and how you restrict him to such relations with persons subject to an infirmity like his own."^a The latter remarks have especial reference to the blind; but a close parallel may be drawn between their affliction, shorn of an important sense, and that of the orphan, bereft of his natural protectors; and the method of treatment subsequently sketched by Dr. Howe is analogous to that we are advocating for the parentless child. He urges that the blind should dwell in their own family circle, and even attend as long as possible the ordinary local schools, needful mechanical aids for their instruction being supplied. Only when special teaching is required would he advise their resort to a special institution, and where practicable he would have them attend it simply as day-pupils, that their connexion with family life may remain undisturbed. If circumstances make residence in the institution a necessity, Dr. Howe would limit it to the shortest period within which the instruction they seek can be obtained, and one object of their training while there should be, to fit them to live usefully and happily in the outer world.

^a Address delivered at the Ceremony of laying the Corner Stone of the New York State Institution for the Blind, Sept. 1866. By Samuel G. Howe. Boston: Walker, Fuller & Co. 1866.

In a letter, dated March, 1858, to a friend in the United States (which has been printed for circulation at home), Mr. Wm. Chambers the present Lord Provost of Edinburgh, who, with his brother Robert, is known throughout the civilised world as the friend and promoter of education in its widest sense, thus expresses himself on the subject we are considering:—"I would, in any case, deprecate the assemblage of large numbers in a single establishment. For orphans, the deaf, the mute, the blind, and the weak in intellect, the nearer we can bring the family principle into operation the better. In Edinburgh an hospital for pauper children has been given up with, I believe, good effect. Instead of being immured in a large building, and brought up in a dull, moping sort of way, the children have been all boarded out among families in the country, where they enjoy better health and spirits, besides getting acquainted with a thousand things of which they could have gained no knowledge in their dreary hospital home. Another example presents itself. Latterly, the buildings of George Watson's hospital (for boys), Edinburgh, have been undergoing extensive repair; the inmates have, therefore, been boarded out, and only come to their classes in the hospital. Now, I have it on good authority, that since the boys went to live with families, they have assumed a different look, are much smarter than formerly, and, in particular, walk alertly, instead of shambling in their gait, as is the bad habit of hospital children. . . . Of the vices which are apt to grow up among either boys or girls under the monastic system, I would rather not speak. It is perhaps sufficient to say, that by no conceivable rules can we enforce the humanising discipline of the paternal home within the sphere of hospital—or call it college—routine. Where the heart is left unsolaced by the holier affections, or is not exhilarated by a sense of freedom and a happy intercourse with the world, it naturally becomes a prey to the baser passions; and much have they to answer for who, from mistaken motives of benevolence, contribute to this course of demoralisation."

From the eastern hemisphere comes another striking testimony to faith in the wholesome influence of domestic life. In his able work on *Crime in India*, published a few months ago, Major G. Hutchinson describes the manner in which members of two notorious thieving tribes, the Sansees and the Pukheewars, have been dealt with. The scheme was originated in 1858 by Mr. Prinsep, Bengal Civil Service, and consists in locating the criminals and their families in "reformatory villages." These are walled enclosures, called by the natives "kots." To the head of each family was allotted land sufficient, with careful cultivation, for subsistence. Seed, implements, and cattle were given, and wells were sunk. Although these people had led the wildest jungle life, supporting themselves by theft, they have gradually settled down under the double influence of restriction to one spot, and incitement to honest labour; and burglarious offences in the district had in 1862 diminished by nearly 50 per cent. "Their character," says Major Hutchinson, who inspected them officially in 1865, "is decidedly improved, and in some kots they have really adopted clothes in addition to a mere loin-cloth; and as I myself saw with agreeable surprise, those clothes in the case of two or three head men were positively clean. Crimes are stated by the Deputy Commissioner to have decreased since these tribes were thus collected in reformatory villages. Schools are in full work amongst them; the scholars—boys and girls—examined before me showed quite sufficient ability to give great encouragement to this most important part of reformatory treatment. . . . It is no slight responsibility which the Government has undertaken, but I may note as worthy of attention that the Government commences its labours with the great advantage of having all these people in families, the very system which at Mettray is found to be so absolutely necessary."^a

One more example we will cite of the beneficial influence of home life. On becoming Recorder of Birmingham, Mr. M. D. Hill pursued with regard to juvenile criminals a plan he had seen successfully practised by the Magistrates of the Warwickshire Sessions. If the offence had been committed against the youth's master, and he was willing to take the delinquent back, the Recorder—unless the crime had been of too serious a nature—consigned the young person again to his care. Out of 417 thus dealt with, and of whose career as complete a register as circumstances permitted, was kept by the Chief of Police, only 80 at the end of 12 years (when the passing of the Reformatory Schools Act placed the treatment of young offenders on a new basis) were known to have been reconvicted. Yet the circumstance that they returned to the same position in which they had gone astray, and were thus probably exposed to the same temptations, and perhaps to the same evil companions whose influence had caused their fall, was strongly adverse to their reformation; and it is to the fact that they were received into the bosom of a family, that the Recorder attributed the chief portion of the success attained by the course he adopted.^b

But, desirous as we are for the extension of the boarding-out system, and sanguine of its favourable results, we do not recommend it as a panacea. Under existing circumstances, especially while the law leaves to the vicious or idle pauper authority over the disposal of the child he would corrupt, or will not maintain,—perhaps under any social conditions to which we can yet look forward, it would be neither expedient nor possible thus to deal with *all* the children of the State. Yet, to do our utmost to unpauperise the whole body is alike our duty and our interest. It is hard upon the honest parent, whom misfortune alone has brought into the workhouse, to subject his offspring to the corrupting influences from which we withdraw the orphan; and it is hard upon the yet innocent child of the vicious parent to leave it to become what its progenitors are. It is unwise to throw away the opportunity afforded us, however slight it may be, of benefiting that class which is perhaps the most pitiable in the whole community,—the children of criminals who become dependent on the State, because their parents are in prison. And some children there, doubtless, are so depraved that it would be wrong to risk their contaminating the offspring of the honest cottager; for these, however, the union affords no proper treatment,—they should be consigned to the industrial or the reformatory school.

^a *Reformatory Measures connected with the treatment of Criminals in India*, by Major G. Hutchinson, Inspector-General of Police, Punjab. Lahore, 1866.

^b *The Repression of Crime*, by Matthew Davenport Hill, Q. C., London: Parker & Son, 1857.

If then the boarding-out system cannot be pursued with every class, it behoves us to seek the next best remedy within our reach. The scheme hereafter submitted to our readers is suggested by Mrs. Archer as capable of dealing in their respective classes with all our pauper children. On some points we feel bound to express our dissent; but we do so with hesitation, our own practical knowledge of the question being extremely limited compared with her's, founded on a close observation as a constant visitor in a workhouse during twenty-four years. Conversant as she has thus become with the operation of the Poor Law, any proposal from her on the subject is entitled to respectful consideration. We are incompetent to offer an opinion on the practicability of her scheme in its entirety; but we would venture to suggest to Guardians who are dissatisfied with the existing state of things, that portions might be, experimentally at least, adopted.

If, moreover, we have succeeded in proving the eligibility of the boarding-out system for the classes recommended for it by Mrs. Archer, to which we would add deserted children (due legal power being created to prevent any subsequent interference by parents; or if their offspring should eventually be restored to them, to obtain surety for their proper treatment), the numbers left to be dealt with by other means would be comparatively small. Of these some might be disposed of by apprenticeship to manufacturers; and for some 'Homes' like those at Norwich might be suitable.

One serious objection will doubtless be urged against the abolition of workhouse schools,—namely, the loss of the money already expended in their erection. This is indeed a grave consideration; but if investigation should prove that such schools not only fail to convert bad citizens into good ones, but actually turns good citizens into bad ones, it will be seen that even pecuniary extravagance lies, not in abolishing, but in retaining the institution. Moreover, the experience of Eton Union shows an actual excess in the weekly expenditure for children retained in the workhouse as compared with those boarded out, independent of the earnings of the latter.^a At any rate we would earnestly implore all Boards who have yet to provide for the children of their unions, to ascertain for themselves the merits of the different methods of training we have endeavoured to describe. And as regards those workhouses, already supplied with schools, in which additional accommodation for adults may be required, we would urge the expediency of dispersing the children abroad, and appropriating their portion of the buildings to meet the want.

MRS. ARCHER'S PROPOSAL;

(With our Notes thereon.)

"Classes of Children in Workhouses; How I would deal with them."

CLASS 1.	CLASS 2.	CLASS 3.	CLASS 4.	CLASS 5.	CLASS 6.	CLASS 7.	CLASS 8.
Orphans who have lost both parents.	The children of Lunatics.	The children of infirm persons residing in the workhouse.	The children of respectable persons residing in the workhouse.	Children deserted by their parents.	The children of persons in prison.	The children of disreputable married persons in the workhouse.	The children of unmarried women in the workhouse.

"CLASSES 1 and 2.—*Orphans having lost both parents, and the children of Lunatics.*—These children might be placed out with cottagers, giving them a liberal weekly allowance so as to get them into first-class cottages. They should be under the supervision of ladies, according to my Scheme, and educated at National Schools. If in any case a proper cottage home could not be found for one of these children, the child might be sent to an Industrial School, founded especially for such children. One such Industrial School would be sufficient for the children of several counties.^b The orphans and the children of lunatics might be sent, at times, for special training, to one of these Industrial Schools (just as middle-class people send their sons and daughters to boarding schools, having them home for holidays.) Holidays might be given to such children (at the same time allowing them out-door relief) in case the persons offering to receive the children were approved by the Board of Guardians. Children in Class 3^c might be dealt with as Classes Nos. 1 and 2, provided the consent of the parent be obtained for so doing.

"CLASSES 3 and 4.—*The children of infirm persons residing in the workhouse; and the children of respectable persons residing in the house.*—These children might be sent daily to the National School nearest to the workhouse, and might be allowed to go to church on Sundays with the National School children. They might be taken in an orderly manner to and fro to the school and back by some respectable pauper in the House, who would also attend to their clothes and teach them habits of cleanliness. The boys might be taken charge of by an aged man.^d If the school were at some distance from the

^a So favourably does the Social Science Association regard the Eton plan that it passed a Resolution at Belfast urging such assimilation of the Irish Poor Law to ours as would afford Irish guardians the same discretion in respect to the boarding-out system as those authorities possess in England.

^b We should object to such an arrangement, as likely to mass too many children together, unless the institution consisted, as at the Raube Haus, of several small houses, standing in the same grounds, and under the same general management, but each forming a distinct dwelling, capable of receiving twelve or fifteen children under the care of a man and his wife. We would urge, also, that the institution be unofficial in character; founded and conducted by voluntary workers, but capable of receiving State aid and inspection, under 25 and 26 Vict. cap. 49.

^c And we would suggest in Class 4 also.

^d Doubtless there may be found in most, if not in all, workhouses, inmates fit morally to undertake the supervision of children; but to select them demands a power of discrimination in masters and matrons which, if otherwise competent to exert it, we do not think they have, under existing regulations, the time duly to exercise. Many of the present evils existing in work-

workhouse the children might take their dinners with them, as village children do who live at a distance from the school. Separate wards both for sleeping, and living in when not at school, should be allowed for these children, from those occupied by the children of disreputable parents (that is parents convicted of crime, or wanderers, or immoral women), occasionally residing in the House. Into these separate wards the parents of the children should constantly be allowed access. The children should take their meals in their day ward, and not in the dining-hall.

"CLASSES 5 and 6. *Deserted children and the children of persons in prison.*—A County School should be established for these children in the locality of the county gaol, to which charitable persons should have access under proper Rules, for the purpose of endeavouring to find out whether any of the children have respectable friends or relatives, and to interest such persons in their welfare and, if possible, to take charge of them. Thus many a little deserted child might find a proper home, perhaps in some distant part of the county where the shame of the parents' crime might not be known; and the parents, through the relatives, or friends, might be won over eventually to perform their duty to the child which they had deserted.^a

"CLASSES 7 and 8. *The children of disreputable married persons occasionally in the workhouse, and the children of unmarried women in the house.*—For these I would have a daily governess, who might, I should think, easily be obtained for a sum of eight shillings or ten shillings a week; (or perhaps a respectable pauper in the house might act as schoolmistress), who should teach the boys and girls in one school-room; and when they were not under her care they should be under the superintendence of some respectable inmates. These children should have all their meals in a separate ward, and not be allowed to speak to their parents oftener than once a month, unless in case of illness; because the parent or parents who so frequently leave the workhouse would see enough of their children when they had them out of the workhouse. On Sunday, these children would attend Divine service in the Chapel of the workhouse while the children of respectable paupers would go to the Parish Church; and thus these Classes 1, 2, 3, 4, would not be thrown together with Classes 7 and 8."^b

To an element of great importance, in dealing with juvenile paupers (as indeed with paupers of any age), Mrs. Archer's Proposal, and the previous contents of these pages alike point—the influence, namely, of educated and refined women. "The broad daylight of publicity," to quote an appropriate and forcible expression, would of itself go far to eradicate, or, at least, to mitigate the evils attaching at present to the administration of our Poor-law; and the wider the area, from which aid in the management of our workhouses is drawn, the more extended will be the interest aroused, and the greater the publicity attained. Moreover, that "woman's mission" is to tend the young, and nurse the sick, is a proposition constantly urged by the opposite sex, and fully accepted by her own. That "woman's rights" involve therefore her admission on at least equal terms to the management of institutions whereof the inmates consist chiefly of these two classes, would appear to be a necessary deduction from that proposition.

A Paper read before the Church Congress^c ably discusses the question how women's influence may, with advantage, be officially exercised in these institutions, and suggests two ways:—1st. As *Visitors* or *Inspectors*; 2nd. As *Residents* or *Superintendents*. It will be said," continues the writer, "that there is always a resident woman or matron over these institutions, both for the young and the aged. It is true; but what is the amount of the 'feminine element' thus employed in comparison with that of the other sex? The governing and commanding power is entirely in the hands of men; and the women to whom the management of details is entrusted by them, are rarely of a class who can originate or suggest improvements, or even exercise moral influence. In all institutions we require more women in authority, and of a higher class. . . . Who has ever counted up all the failures, the losses, the errors, which the sole management of men in Boards of Guardians has incurred? Women, at all events hitherto, cannot be to blame for all these things in which our workhouses have failed; while, seeing that God has throughout the world given into their hands the management of the household, the nursery, and the sick room, is it

houses arise, we believe, from the powers, bodily and mental, of the Superintendents being overtasked, a circumstance which tends to keep a superior class of persons out of this branch of employment. The higher the social position of the governors and matrons of gaols, the better is the influence—in the opinion of Sir Walter Crofton—they exercise over prisoners; and doubtless the effect of appointing gentlemen and ladies to the superintendence of our poorhouses would be equally beneficial.

The class of paupers from whom the Supervisors of the children would, according to Mrs. Archer's proposal, be selected, would necessarily be the infirm—as no able-bodied man or woman would inhabit a workhouse who would be morally a fit companion to the young; and we fear the inactivity of body and too frequent peevishness of temper belonging to age or weak health would disqualify for this office the inmates who might otherwise be suitable.

^a As we have already said, we would class deserted children with those to be boarded out. The children of prisoners in Paris are, it will be remembered, boarded out; but if this course be regarded as impracticable here, we would make the proposed institution for their reception rather a *Home* than a *School*. Many of the inmates would be infants too young for schooling, in whose care the elder girls might be partially employed, as well as in doing the domestic work of the house. Many of the elder children would probably have been attending Ragged, or even pay-schools, and we would advise that such attendance be continued when possible; efforts being meanwhile made to get the children, if old enough, into employment.

^b It is most desirable that these children be entirely separated from the offspring of respectable parents, but we doubt if this be possible where both classes are retained under the same roof. Moreover, it must be borne in mind that in eliminating the virtuous, the evil lot of the rest is intensified; and it becomes all the more important to bring such other means to bear for their improvement as may be available. With this view we would recommend the best instead of the cheapest teacher. If a lady could be induced to undertake the post, she might perform a service to her country as great as any of the noble deeds achieved in the hospitals of Scutari, or cholera haunts of London. Besides exercising a purifying influence on the children she might through them reach their parents, especially the unwedded mothers, who, shameless and obdurate as they may too often be, have yet sometimes a passionate affection for their offspring which, if rightly directed, is a mighty power for good.

As regards all pauper children, we would urge the importance of calling in the aid of penal measures for the dishonest and the refractory by consigning them under sentence to Reformatory or Industrial Schools. Neither our workhouses nor the substitutes suggested in this volume possess the means to reform. To prevent is their nobler task.

^c Women's Work in Workhouses. A Paper read at the Church Congress held at Oxford, July, 1862.

not reasonable to suppose that some, at least, of these evils might be averted by the advice, the inspection, the counsel of educated women being introduced into every workhouse in the land, not superseding, but co-operating with the Guardians, and leaving to them their rightful sphere of work?"

"A great mistake was made," said Archdeacon Utterton, speaking of the training of pauper children, "when men thought they could do a great work without the women. A man was nothing without the woman, nor a woman without the man."^a Arguing in favour of lady visitors to workhouses, Sir Walter Crofton says, "It is no slight confirmation of this opinion to state, as I most emphatically do state, that the attendance of lady visitors at the large female convict prison in Dublin has been productive, not of irregularity or interference with the strict regulations of the establishment, as some may suppose, but of the best and the most beneficial results, both to the public and to the criminals themselves."^b Miss Twining, in her evidence before a Parliamentary Committee, urged the appointment of female Inspectors for workhouses, or the election of two or three ladies to Boards of Guardians. In either capacity she believed they would be an aid and support to every rightly disposed matron in the discharge of her duties; and a potent check upon those inclined to wrong-doing, who are "able to deceive a body of gentlemen in a way they could not do if ladies had the inspection as well."^c

We have ourselves been assured by a workhouse matron that she often wished for ladies among the Guardians whose officer she was, as she felt reluctant to discuss with gentlemen domestic details respecting which, however, she frequently needed advice and assistance.

In the course of a discussion which followed the reading of a paper on "Workhouse Inmates," by Miss Twining at Glasgow, Mr. Duncan McLaren, M.P. for Edinburgh, said, "he believed if women were taken into all and every one of our public institutions, it would be better for all. Having had considerable experience in public institutions, hospitals, etc., he was struck with the want of administrative and superintending women. He thought that in every workhouse there should be a female committee, the same as the existing committee of management, and that all the female servants should be appointed and supervised by ladies. Were their duties carefully defined, he trusted so much to the tact of women that he was sure that in one year they would do as much good as a governor could do in seven. He thought the public were under a deep debt of gratitude to Miss Twining and the ladies who were associated with her. He should like to see committees appointed by the legislature."^d Miss Carpenter, at Dublin, the following year, suggested that all pauper children should be educated in institutions distinct from the workhouse, and managed by committees annually chosen by the ratepayers, the girls to be under the direction of a committee of ladies.^e

Mr. W. R. Lloyd, who for several years devoted much valuable time and labour to the public service as guardian of a large parish, in a paper read at the Social Science meeting at Bradford, says, "I am of opinion that the interests of girls' schools must materially suffer so long as their oversight is confined to the boards of guardians, and inspectors, as now constituted. The Government Inspector, usually a classical scholar, with honors from the University of Oxford or Cambridge, makes minute investigations into the proficiency of the poor girls in reading, writing, and arithmetic, scripture history and geography; but as to his qualification for judging of their improvement in needlework, their skill in cutting, fitting, or mending, the regularity of the darning or knitting, washing and the getting up of linen, the style of performance of any household, kitchen, or nursery service, he cannot refer to any degree, diploma, or experience to give authority to his opinions. It is impossible for such gentlemen to know the amount of work that a class of girls ought to do, what should be the progress made in stitching and darning, and all the other industrial female work, during the half year..... If the system of Government inspection of the sort of education and training acknowledged necessary for workhouse schools is to be efficient, it appears consistent that only a lady experienced in such matters can do justice to the requirement of these important duties. She should be fully qualified to organize all necessary scholastic, domestic, and industrial training and report half-yearly. By her observations and comparisons in various schools through the country she would be enabled to advise and direct the best methods of training the girls, and her reports would be of equal, if not superior, value to those usually published by the Poor Law Board."

A late eminent school inspector, aware of his incompetence to judge of the industrial acquirements of the female pupils, used to take his wife with him on his official tours, who ably discharged the duty of which he felt himself incapable; and he advised his brother inspectors to follow his example. His expedient, honest and shrewd though it was, might perhaps even be excelled by the appointment of authorized Female Inspectors who should share at once the responsibility and the emoluments of their male colleagues.

"The eligibility of women to be Guardians," we are informed on the highest Poor-law authority, "has never been determined;" but "they are liable to be appointed overseers." We could wish that their fitness for the latter post might be practically tested; and their legal competence to the former promptly declared; or, if needful, be obtained by legislative enactment. It is difficult to conceive that evil could arise from thus rendering women eligible to take their part in the official care of the poor. It would still rest with the ratepayers to elect them or not; and supposing they were chosen, if experience should be unfavourable to their continuance in office, they would be removed by the simple method of withholding the votes of the constituency. The impediment to obtaining the co-operation of ladies, how-

^a *Journal of the Workhouse Visiting Society*, March, 1863.

^b *The Immunity of Habitual Criminals*.

^c Report of the Select Committee on Poor Relief, July, 1861.

^d *Journal of the Workhouse Visiting Society*, Nov. 1860.

^e *Social Science Transactions*, 1861.

ever, at the Board of Guardians, would lie, we believe, rather in their reluctance to undertake the arduous post, than in unwillingness to elect them. But we hope the importance of the services they might render by accepting the office would overcome a not unnatural repugnance to the task.

But it is not the importance of female aid that we desire alone to urge, any more than the strict performance of simply official duties. There is enough to employ the intelligent, the educated, and the refined of both sexes, whether in or out of office, in assuaging the physical sufferings and ameliorating the moral condition of our pauper brethren throughout the land. "As one of the framers of the Poor-Law has remarked," says Miss Cobbe, "those laws were designed to form a mere bony skeleton, indicating the form and affording a basis for the *flesh* of voluntarism to make a living body of national charity. By a fatal result of jealousy and routine, the voluntary element has been too often excluded, and we have only a fearful spectre, haunting with death-like image all the lower vaults of our social fabric."^a It is not, however, to jealous occlusion only that the absence of the voluntary element must be attributed. We ourselves have, as a rule, been supine; and where we have left our share of duty to be performed by paid officers, we ought to feel no surprise that it is discharged perfunctorily with dull and ineffective routine. The revelations of workhouse mismanagement which are thickening around us are but proofs of our neglect of an urgent and obvious responsibility; while they call upon us trumpet-tongued at once to claim as our right a share in administering the charity of the State. The expediency of thus combining official and non-official effort has lately been recognised by a high authority. Lord Carnarvon, in the debate in the House of Lords on Provincial Workhouses, said, "In any steps that might be taken for the reform of these institutions he should be glad to see the co-operation of private benevolence secured as far as possible—a co-operation which experience had shown to be of the utmost service in those institutions."^b

In our comments on Mrs. Archer's Proposal, we have sought to enlarge to the utmost the scope of home influence in dealing with juvenile paupers. The "family system," in any form, is, we are aware, at present unrecognised by the regulations of our Poor-law, and may be unknown even by name at the Central Board. Most respectfully, but most earnestly, do we ask for their consideration. To it is attributed by M. Demetz a large measure of that success in reclaiming the young which has made his noble institution an exemplar to the whole world. Shall we be satisfied to achieve less for pauper children in England than is accomplished for criminal children in France? Mettray has converted to useful citizens 94·47 per cent. of the youths she has restored to liberty. Let us strive to show no less fair a return for all we expend in money, time, and care on our CHILDREN OF THE STATE!

We conclude with a summary of the principles proved, we submit, in the foregoing pages.

- 1st. Our Poor-law implies a right to aid from the State in all incapable of supporting themselves.
- 2nd. The State in granting such aid obtains a correlative control over the recipients.
- 3rd. The vast power she thus takes to herself furnishes her with means for the reduction of pauperism which her own interests, apart from higher motives, render it imperative on her to employ.
- 4th. These means lie, as regards the young, in so training them as to impart the desire and the capacity for self-support.
- 5th. One condition essential to this end is their complete separation from adults of their own class,—such separation being impossible where the school forms part of the same building with the workhouse.
- 6th. That must be the best method of training children which is appointed by Nature,—namely under family influences; and when artificial methods are employed, they should be made to approach the model as closely as possible.
- 7th. The method practised in our Pauper Schools is contrary to that established by Nature; and fails signally in producing good results.
- 8th. The "family system," as pursued in Industrial Homes, and as still more precisely followed in "boarding-out," while it secures separation from adult paupers, conforms, as nearly as practical obstacles permit, to the course prescribed by Nature herself.
- 9th. Its success has been proved by long and varied experience.

^a *Macmillan's Magazine*. April, 1861.

^b *Times*. Nov. 29th, 1867.