

AFFAIRS OF THE HOME CONSIDERED

Annual Meeting of the Association Was Held Yesterday.

THE REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

Mrs. D. E. Taylor Presented a Statement of the Financial Condition of the Institution, and Mrs. E. S. Moffat, the Secretary Gave a Very Interesting Review of the Work of the Year--The Officers and Directors Chosen.

The annual meeting of the Association of the Home for the Friendless was held yesterday afternoon in the hall of the Young Women's Christian Association with a large attendance of managers and friends.

Table with financial data: To balance in bank Jan. 12, 1897, \$ 628 75; J. W. Peck estate, 1,062 90; James Blair estate, 1,000 00; Dr. B. H. Throop estate, 1,000 00; Scranton Savings bank, 10,000 00.

Table with financial data: Disbursements for 1897: Matron, assistant matron and servants, \$ 861 90; Groceries, 298 73; Dry goods, 44 43; Meat bills, 96 93; Milk bills, 125 20; Groceries and medicines, 52 17; Gas and water, 129 28; Repairs and improvements, 85 25; Shoes and repairing, 65 35; Clothing, 15 25; Printing reports, 42 00; Funeral expenses, 6 00; Weaving carpet, 11 25; Carriage, 10 00; Lackawanna Hardware Co., 2 82; The Price & Roe Co., 1 40; Traveling expenses--visiting indentured children, 6 15; Garden expenses, 2 50; Dressmaking and glasses for old ladies, 5 50; Interest on First National bank, 81 23; Scranton bank--H. C. Shafer, cashier, 3 00; Insurance, 255 50; E. H. Davis architect, 2 00; Peck Lumber and Mfg Co., 14,000 00; Hunt & Connell Co., 3,425 47; Peck Stipp, 255 40; Charles B. Bedell, 1,000 00; George H. Perigo, 647 33; Green Ridge Lumber Co., 12 00; Interest--Scranton Savings bank, 459 00; Janitor--new building, 45 00.

Table with financial data: Balance, \$25,509 15; Mrs. E. S. Moffat, 261 00; Total, \$25,770 15.

Mrs. E. S. Moffat then read her first report as recording secretary. The report as given by the ex-Secretary Mrs. W. D. Kennedy, for the past thirteen years have been the great features of the annual meeting, so admirable in fiction and thought have they been and the board of managers is indeed fortunate in securing so able a successor in Mrs. Moffat. Her report was charmingly written and read, and appealed strongly to the feelings of the listeners.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

A new year brings us once more together that we may hear the annual report of the work of the Home. Well do we remember how long a year seemed to us in our childhood's days. That it would ever pass, that the holiday season would ever come was such an indefinite prospect. Perhaps it might if we waited a great while, but the outlook was not cheering. Now the months fly by, and when a new date greets us we experience a feeling akin to surprise that it has come so soon.

How brief the space of time since 1887 opened its doors before us, and we regarded its dim possibilities; its work unformulated; its trials unforeseen; its achievements unknown. Yet the twentieth year of the Home's work is finished, and we read from its pages today.

Since the last annual report twenty-two young girls, sixteen boys, twelve women and ten babies have been admitted; fifty-three inmates have been dismissed, or are out on trial. The family has not numbered less than thirty-nine nor more than fifty-five at any one time during the year. In December there were fifty-four inmates. In 1897 there were no deaths, but on the 7th of January, 1898, a tiny baby who had been in the Home but a short time, and who was ill when

received, peacefully closed its eyes and was gone. Quite a number of children are on trial in homes, where, it is hoped, they may remain, and of whom we have pleasant accounts. One little girl who in time past was a source of great anxiety to the management, and of whose future they well might despair, was visited this fall by one of the managers, who reports her as being "such a good little girl, happy and contented, with cheeks like roses." Another was recently brought back by her foster mother from her school, country home for a brief call, and although her little mother had not ceased to be ill that there is no doubt felt of her becoming a noble woman. A boy who came to us long ago from most unpromising surroundings, and who in our care some years ago, was last found a niche where he is enthusiastically characterized as "a perfect gentleman." Last summer he was very ill, and when dressed, came to see if we could assist her in finding her brother. She had been placed by the management in a good home eighteen years ago, and had done well. One child whose sad story particularly appealed to every member of the board had been found alone, deserted by the heartless mother, who should have been his protector. It was in such a shamefully neglected condition that a sojourn in the hospital was needed for a severe illness followed, from which it was hardly thought the little one could recover, but now, adopted into a happy home, tenderly cared for and dearly loved, it is the centre of attraction.

KIND FOSTER PARENTS.

In sharp contrast to the conduct of such a parent as the one just referred to is the true mother love shown by some of those who children of their own have been denied or from whom they have been taken away, but who have found in the Home little ones on whom the full treasure of such love can be lavished. A touching scene was witnessed lately at the regular Thursday morning meeting of the executive board when a sweet-faced, motherly woman came to know if she could see a boy she had brought back a short time before. She had taken him with view to adoption, but he had fallen ill, and after exhausting all the medical resources at her command, she had been told he would certainly die, so with a heavy heart she returned him to the Home, utterly unable to bear the pang of seeing his young life go out. The skill of the physicians in Scranton, however, had, in the meantime, done much for the little fellow, and when he came into the room she looked at him as at one brought back from the dead; her eyes brimmed over, and with the breathless exclamation of the royal parent of old "My son! My son!" she drew the lovely blue-eyed boy to her and sobbed the gladness she could not express. "You see, ladies," she explained when she could command her voice, "I told me he was going into a consumption, and I could not bear to see him die, so I brought him back; but oh! he is so dear to me, and--can I have him again?" There was no hesitancy in the minds of the board as to decision. The boy's eyes and voice alike responded to the affection so freely bestowed on him--the first love he has ever known, and before long we trust he can return.

Who will forget the triumphal exit of a baby, some time ago, when all the members of the executive board then also in weekly session gathered around it to say good bye, while they admired it in its long, white cloak (the gift of a kind friend), and uttered the sweet nonsense all well brought up babies hear. What if it had been a waif and a stray? Was it not now going to be a king in a home of its own, where it would reign, as rich in love as any born to the purple? Is it a matter of surprise that we are interested in the work? A mild phrase truly to express satisfaction in such results. Not that they are all so gratifying. There are dark days, and sad days, and days when high hopes, and "behind the clouds is the sun still shining," let us be cheerful in the position. "What cannot be, love counts it done."

GENEROSITY OF OUR CITIZENS.

Never were members of a board so helped, so encouraged, so upheld as we have been by all our good friends in and out of this city of Scranton. Kindness made at the Home, "Herald" "never fails." The report of the treasurer, just read in your hearing, has told you much, but it would take many reports fully to show what has been done for us during the past year. The words of Addison's well-known hymn alone seem to express our feelings:

"Ten thousand mercies, precious gifts My daily thanks employ."

Never have the physicians been kinder, giving freely of their time and skill, and the untiring energy characteristic of their profession. The clergy have been ever willing to respond to calls, and have comforted many hearts. Lovely flowers have been sent, not only from florists and friends in town, but from Hamilton and Lake Ariel, bringing with them in their own sweet silent way messages of love. From Waverly, lying among its beautiful hills, came a most generous donation, fresh and delicious "of the fruit of the trees of the field." From Monroe came a quilt, pieced by many busy friends, one of whom is ninety-two years old. From Dalton came a useful gift of pillow slips; from Dunmore many pairs of mittens, knit by one who knows what little fingers need in cold weather; from "The Omega" of Hyde Park, a most useful roll of rag carpet; from the Lehigh, warm mittens, nine dozen suits of soft, warm underwear. Gifts of all kinds have been received from the different churches and from many organizations, each and every one so acceptable, so highly appreciated, would that we could particularize. True, the annual pamphlet will mention all these prized benefactions, but we should like to say more about them. For the coal that the great corporations and individuals have given us, which has kept the members of the family warm; for the ice that has kept them cool; for the enticing things given so constantly by the Home; for the valuable services of the telephone; for the great pleasure of the daffy and weekly papers, and the unvarying kindness of the press, even ready to print any notices that are desired; for the weekly desserts; for the pure white lilies and colored eggs at Easter; for the patriotic fire crackers on the Fourth of July; and the many little "patty pan" cakes (which a very delightful friend got up very early that hot morning to bake); for the tickets to entertainments; for the numbers and valuable gifts from generous-hearted merchants, provision dealers, proprietors of markets, thoughtful women and interested children, we return earnest thanks.

OTHER FRIENDLY DEEDS.

In June Mr. Peter Stipp ploughed and harrowed our garden--a donation of labor, while to other friends we owe the seeds and plants set therein, which yielded such gratifying results. The heat of one August Saturday was forgotten in the pleasure of listening to a graphophone, when the music of the afternoon by one who does it most gracefully. Another delightful treat was given by two very well known and very young gentlemen, who gave an afternoon of music. The old ladies enjoyed it supremely, as the merry strains of violin and piano awoke reminiscences of pleasures long since past, which were recalled by the magical notes.

On donation day, among the many offerings, was a dollar's worth of sugar from a boy, with others of his family, had been for a good while at the Home. Now he is the man of his home, and he has been admitted; fifty help support the rest. "I wanted a cap and a necktie," he said to one of our "what we can never repay the Home for what she has done for me, but for I must send this sugar."

Said one of the old ladies on this same donation day--one who had not been with us on this annual great occasion, and who was therefore unprepared for the evidence of such generosity as she then saw manifested. "Why, everybody has good to us! I just had to look and look, and every time I turned my head to look out of the window there came an-

other bundle!" "Yes," assented another, in a meditative way, rocking softly, the ladies is always good, and gas correctedly, "the Lord is good!" The delight of the children as they saw so many things coming in for their comfort during the winter was great, and it moved all the array of supplies there was one thing more than another which appealed to them it was the barrels of apples.

CHRISTMAS BENEFACTIONS.

When came the blessed Christmas feast none in this broad city were more bountifully remembered. Time fails to tell of the tokens of love and cheer that came from the primary and intermediate departments of school No. 18 came a wagon load of vegetables, canned fruit and many other useful articles from the Sunday school of the Dunmore Presbyterian church came another wagon, similarly laden. One quaint little offering that meant a great deal, was a quantity of sweet spirits of nitre, carefully wrapped in a clean, well worn towel. Evidently it came from a dear little thoughtful friend who had known what it was to be ill, and fever and who meant in this way to exemplify the Golden Rule. Gifts of all kinds poured in. The dinner from the Girls' Glee Club was a very nice affair, the measure of its praise was the justice done it. The shining Christmas tree, glittering with its many adornments, was the exposure of the Christmas eve. Much amusement was created by the great delight of one little boy to whom all such joys had hitherto been a sealed book. "I never seen a Christmas tree," he confided to the matron. "Did it grow that way? Did Santa Claus make that turkey, too?" At bed time he inquired if he might see a Christmas tree, and after the time honored "Now I lay me," he added with much fervor: "Thank you Lord for the tree! I wanted a horse, and you gave me a tree. Thank you Lord! Amen." Then all the little white robed figures in the dormitory sat up in their beds and threw kisses to Santa Claus, and the happiest day of their lives. I must not omit mentioning the dainty Christmas tea given the old ladies by a young girl who presented each one with the pretty cup and saucer and plate on which she served the charming entertainment. On our list of life members have this year been enrolled the names of Mrs. Cora J. Merrifield, Mrs. H. H. Crane, Mrs. C. P. Matthews, Mrs. Charles Von Storeh, Mrs. F. M. Vandine, Miss Alvira Barney, Miss Belle Von Storeh, Mrs. S. Y. Leet and Mrs. Serena Von Storeh.

DUTIES FAITHFULLY PERFORMED.

Our advisory board and our inspection committee have been most frequently called on during the past year, their counsel and help proving invaluable. The various committees, with their hands full of work, have been most diligent in their duties. A heavy burden has rested on our building committee, which they have faithfully shouldered. The work of the chief manager is always exacting, but has been performed so quietly that perhaps we do not realize the full measure of its worth. Even before the year has been held at the Home during the year, which have been much enjoyed by all participating in them. The annual exhibition, which went to Harvey, Lakewood one bright June day, netted \$44.96, while a very attractive chrysanthemum show in October brought \$88. Both these affairs were under the efficient management of Mrs. E. P. Chamberlin, and her aids our vigorous finance committee. Our matron, Mrs. Walker, is a veritable "house mother" and aided by her sister, Miss Solomon, a genuine home life flows on steadily and surely influencing for good all whom it reaches.

During the past year the Home has lost by death three of its staunch friends, Mr. James G. Blair, Dr. B. H. Throop and Mr. J. Atticus Robertson. Always considerate of the poor, they were how we shall miss them. By the will of Mr. Blair the society received last June a bequest of \$1,000, in memory of his "deceased wife, Alice, who died as she lived, of said society." In October they received \$1,000 from Dr. Throop's estate, the balance of his generous subscription made at the Home in 1887. Mr. Robertson had been another of our liberal contributors throughout the years of his life, ever full of kindly interest. "If thought must be laid to rest, To those who ever of a kindly run In the great silence and the dark beyond Vanished with farewells fond."

"Unseen, not lost, our grateful memories still Their vacant places fill. And with the full voiced greeting of new friends A tender whisper blends."

THE NEW HOME BUILDING.

The most absorbing subject of the year has been the building of the new Home. Almost completed it stands fair to see on its grandest and most imposing scale. But many cares and anxieties connected with it fill our minds. The lack of forthcoming funds wherewith to discharge the obligations of the building, the gravest question of the day to the board of managers. As our treasurer's report has stated we have paid this year to the Peck Lumber company the sum of \$41,700; last year we paid the same company \$14,850; we still owe them on our contract \$6,050. Perhaps it would be well to call attention to the fact that we have paid out for the expenses of the new Home alone \$23,300.88. Our bills are many and heavy, our treasury very empty. How shall we pay our debts? Very early one morning last summer, while being along the street, some words of a conversation going on in a store, floated out, distinctly audible in the still air, and caught the ear of the passerby, said the unseen speaker, "An' she had a very shabby little baby wid her." The passerby went on, but the words had started a train of thought that stopped at the shabby baby! No so do we generally think of these tiny morsels of humanity. The word usually suggests a vision of a petted darling, a favorite, a child, a baby, or a smiling in unconscious comfort of happily-tended walking dolls, clothed in pure white garments and soft, clinging woeds; loved, adored, by the whole household. A very different picture rose up before the mind of the one who had by chance overheard the remark, as memories came crowding of various little persons who had been received at the Home. The baby who came wrapped up in a piece of rough brown paper; the baby that was handed in late one night, jammed into a small grape basket, its only covering a piece of thin old muslin, a bottle of a sleeping potion by its side, who, when morning came, and a group of pitying women stood around the cradle where lay this little victim of man's inhumanity, quietly slipped away from this troublesome world, and was not for God took him; the baby who was found under a stone in the gully of a shallow stream among the bushes on the mountain side, burned and hurt, the baby who came to us lately, almost dead from starvation, whose admission was asked for by a clergyman with tears in his eyes, so strangely did the picture of the little one appeal to him; all these and more, a sad looking procession, filed before the quickened remembrance; children, bruised, neglected, beaten, sick, hurt, untaught, unloved--so had they come to the Home. Not so did they look after a sojourn there. Clean, happy, with health restored, with eyes whom love had there taught to shine, with new impulses given to their hitherto denied lives--this was the change wrought in their surroundings. His is for what we labor--this is for what we appeal; this is why we plan and beg and harass our souls and yours. "What will you do this coming year for the very shabby little baby?"

OFFICERS CHOSEN.

Judge Knapp called for a rising vote of thanks to the secretary and treasurer for their reports. This was accorded and the election of officers took

THE GREAT STORE. THE GREAT STORE. THE GREAT STORE. THE GREAT STORE.

PRICES ARE WHAT TALK

THERE'S only one way to demonstrate where the dollar goes farthest. Experiment! That's a privilege we're not ashamed to give to anyone. For we know what the result will be. Thousands tested it Monday last. And they've come again every day since. And they'll come today. Come yourself today or this evening. If there's an article on sale not as represented, or even better than you could possibly expect for the price asked, there's no power on earth compelling you to buy. And our system of "satisfaction--or money back" will protect you in any event

TREMENDOUS "JANUARY SALE" BARGAINS THROUGH THE STORE ALL DAY.

The following Specials will be on sale this evening from 7 to 9 o'clock only:

Table with 4 columns: Aprons (Fifty styles of Aprons, embroidered trimmed, hemstitched effects, tucks; extra large size, wide hems, long strings, elegantly made, worth \$5., at Fifteen Cents.); Handkerchiefs (Men's Handkerchiefs, with colored borders and plain white hems with tape borders; also women's linen hemstitched and initials, all at Five Cents.); Lace and Embroideries (A combination lot of Hand-some Laces and Embroideries--some remnant ends, some good lengths; none damaged or soiled, all to go at the one price of Eight Cents Yard.); Women's Shoes (Eight styles, cloth or kid tops, fine vici kid, handsomely finished, button or lace, plain or pat. tip, round or square toe, worth \$3.00, many of them more, at One Dollar and Forty-Nine Cents.).



Greatest Clothing Sale on Record

The entire stock of Fine Clothing of the Economy Clothing Co., of this city, has been purchased by the well-known firm of Kramer Bros. This is a new stock, manufactured for this season's wear, consisting of \$20,000 worth of fine, fashionable and well-tailored Men's, Boys' and Children's Suits and Overcoats, which will be sacrificed at Fifty Cents on the Dollar, to make room for our Spring stock. Space does not permit us to enumerate the thousands of bargains in store for you. Among the many are as follows:

- BARGAIN NO. 1: Men's Overcoats, all wool and fashionable makes, black, blue or brown, Kerseys, Chinchillas, etc. Economy's price \$12.00; our price \$4.00.
- BARGAIN NO. 2: Men's Suits, all wool, latest styles, Clays, Chevits and Cashmeres, in all colors and makes, Economy's price \$12.00; our price \$6.00.
- BARGAIN NO. 3: One lot of Men's Suits, good for general wear. Economy's price \$8.00; our price \$4.00.
- BARGAIN NO. 4: One lot of Men's Ulsters. Economy's price \$7.00; our price \$3.50.
- BARGAIN NO. 5: Boys Overcoats and Ulsters, all wool and nobby made. Economy's price \$8; our price \$4.00.
- BARGAIN NO. 6: Boys' Suits, Clays, Chevits and Cassimeres. Economy's price \$3.00; our price \$1.00.
- Children's Reefer Suits--75c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00.
- Children's Reefers--\$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00.
- Children's Ulsters and Top Coats--\$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00.
- Children's Knee Pants--25c, 35c, 65c.
- Men's and Boys' Single Trousers--\$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00.

Don't Miss the chance of your life to get good Clothing at half their value. Sale starts Saturday, January 15th, at 9 a. m., at

KRAMER == BROS. Popular Clothing House, 325 Lacka. Ave.

REAL ESTATE SOLD BY SHERIFF. JUDGE AND DOBBS. The Pair Are in Active Training at Nanticoke. Scranton Sunday Free Press and the New York Sunday Journal Two Mammoth Papers for the Price of One. Pill out blank below and send to any of the following places and have both papers delivered to your residence for five cents: CENTRAL CITY--Reisman's News Stand, Spruce street. PECKVILLE--Mr. T. U. Spangier, Stand, Linden street. WEST SIDE--Free Press Office, 126 North Main avenue. PROVIDENCE--O'Connor's News Stand. GREEN RIDGE--Holt's Drug Store, Harry Ward, agent. DUNMORE--J. J. Brogan's Hotel. MOOSIC, AVOCA and DURVEA--(Wagon)--J. J. McMurtrie. PITTSBURGH--E. R. Shepherd, 31 South Main street. Kindly have the New York Sunday Journal and Free Press delivered at my residence every Sunday morning, for which I agree to pay 5 cents each Sunday. Name..... Address..... 2,000 BOYS WANTED.

"77" BREAKS UP COLDS that hang on, but a fresh Cold, taken in hand at the start is more easily dissipated. "Seventy-seven" cures are perfect cures, leaving you strong and vigorous and not a weakened "easy mark" for disease. "77" cures Grip, Influenza, Catarrh, Pains in the Head and Chest, Cough and Sore Throat. 77-A as vital tonic to a dollar fit. At druggists or sent on receipt of price. Ask for Dr. Humphreys' Specific Manual of all Diseases at your Druggists or Mailed free. Humphreys' Medicine Company, New York.