



Emigrants ready to start, after training at the Farm Colony, Hempstead, Essex.

1909/1910

which we are able to help, we believe that the greatest benefit has resulted to the individuals concerned; families who were living in destitution in this country having secured immediate employment, with the best prospects of rapidly improving their position. Of those sent out in former years we receive good accounts. It is a matter of frequent occurrence to receive letters of gratitude from emigrants whom our help has placed beyond the reach of want; and the promised repayments of sums advanced for passage-money and other expenses are in many cases made with praiseworthy regularity. We cannot but believe that immigrants of this type, carefully selected both for character and fitness, are a source of strength to the Colonies.

Lads' Home. During the year, our Lads' Home at Stonebridge Park, N.W., was declared open by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught.

A New Departure. It is always difficult to find forms of employment for the inmates of our Labour Homes to vary the monotony of wood-chopping. In one of our provincial Homes the Officer-in-Charge, who had already succeeded in adding market-gardening to the industries pursued, has commenced the manufacture of rustic furniture. Without forming too great a tax on the intelligence of unskilled men, this work has proved very useful in stimulating their energies, and in promoting the exercise of thought and individuality.

Loss by Fire. Just at the end of our financial year, a disastrous fire occurred at Hempstead Hall, our Farm Colony in Essex. Much damage was done; but there was fortunately no loss of life; and the destruction was confined to outbuildings and implements. The loss was fully

covered by insurance. Advantage will be taken of this opportunity to rebuild in brick, with slated roofs, the old sheds, &c., which were destroyed, having been of wood with thatched roofs. The additional expense incurred will, we believe, be amply justified; and it will add to the capital value of the estate.

Women's Social Work.

In connection with our Women's Social Department, several changes have taken place. The work has developed, and we trust will develop yet more during the next year. More interest is being shown in this very important part of the Church Army Work, as is evident by the larger amount of money earmarked for it.

New Home and Crèche.

One Preventive Home has had to be given up on account of the dampness of the neighbourhood in which it was situated, but another has been opened in its stead at 20 Nutford Place. Here we have also a small Crèche, where the babies of poor widows and wives with sick or disabled husbands can be received. The gratitude of these mothers is most touching.

Women's Clubs.

The Heartsease Club for Women has extended its borders, and is now located at 130 Edgware Road (the old Headquarters of the Church Army), under the name of the Alexandra Club. There are over 50 cubicles and guest rooms, and the number of members is rapidly increasing. The Princess Club, for the factory girls of Bermondsey, continues to exercise a useful and elevating influence in the dull and narrow lives of its members.

Hostel.

Our Hostel, for young women in business and others, has done a splendid work, and several inmates have given their lives to God. Two are offering