

tion, and with high hopes and earnest endeavour, was attended by the most disastrous results, owing to a defect in the drainage of the house first taken. Sickness and death followed, a second removal was immediately imperative, and those responsible for the Home were plunged into utterly unlooked-for expense. There were not wanting, however, a few willing hands stretched out to help and save the gallant little barque in its moment of peril, and within a short space of time, safe anchorage was found in the beautiful old house which, it is hoped, will prove a permanent Home for the Homeless Children.

while the girls learn to help in such little household duties as they can compass. By-and-bye it is proposed to turn the cottage (which is now let) into a laundry, to give them additional training. Altogether it is like a big, happy family, lovingly and wisely "mothered" by the hon. Matron and Secretary, as they are officially styled. The beneficent result to the children need hardly be stated, and the influence upon their mothers is scarcely less apparent. This is hardly a "charity." No child is admitted without a minimum payment of 5s. weekly, and the mothers are obliged by the rules of the Home to keep in touch with their children and to visit them as regularly as possible.

What mingling of hope and repentance, and inner striving after the high and holy cannot be taught by the love of a simple, happy child? And to those who afterwards marry, as many do, what lessons in the care and up-bringing of children must have been gleaned in those weekly visits! If such Homes were started all over the country the economic saving it would mean to the State in the one matter of coroners' inquests alone, would be considerable.

A short time ago the Bishop of London paid a visit to Fallow Corner,<sup>2</sup> and while those

concerned are loth to part with the absolute "unofficiality" of the Home, a general consensus of opinion seems to point to the advisability of forming a committee to share some of the work and responsibility.

During the last three years the number of children has increased from thirty to more than sixty. Miss Wright (Secretary) and Miss Kingsford (Matron) are always pleased to show the Home to visitors on any afternoon except Wednesday, and an actual sight of this working philanthropy will do more to impress those who may be interested in it than any written appeal can do.

N. E. G.



CHILDREN AT PLAY.

Fallow Corner is a roomy, well-built house, standing in nearly two acres of ground, with cottage and out-houses belonging to it. On the great lawn stretching behind the house the little bare-foot boys and girls (foot-gear is tabooed in the Home) scamper and play in the happiness and freedom of natural childhood, while the babies sleep in the sun in their shaded perambulators. Under the stalwart trees are swings and seats and horizontal bars, and in summer, when it is not raining, every meal is taken in the open air. The bigger children go to the C.C. School close by, and in their leisure hours the big kitchen garden provides pleasant employment for the boys,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)