

1928/1929

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THE LADS' LADDER.

President—Lady Bagot, R.R.C. *Secretary* (Employment and Welfare)—
Capt. Hanmore. *Assistant Secretary*—Capt. Kemp.

EMPLOYMENT AND WELFARE WORK AMONGST BOYS.

OBJECT :
To erect a ladder between
"blind alley" and oppor-
tunities of fuller life.

In the reports and statistics published in the "Blue Book" we feel that the important work amongst lads and young men is often lost sight of. We are, therefore, bringing these activities under one heading,

the "Lads' Ladder."

Hempstead Hall Technical Training Farms, Farnham Home for Consumptive Boys, Willesden Home for Probation Lads out of employment, Maidstone Home, providing another chance to those who have made a false start, Clifton House Youths' Hostel and Home for recommended lads of good character; these are rungs in the C.A. Lads' Ladder.

To see how we can increase our usefulness, we have formed a Council under the Presidency of Lady Bagot. The Council will meet two or three times yearly, and we are looking forward hopefully to a greatly increased work amongst boys and young men.

HEMPSTEAD HALL ESTATE.

LITTLE BULL FARM AND RUSES FARM.

Officer-in-Charge—Capt. and Mrs. Warner. *Assistant*—Capt. Wilson. *Hon. Welfare Visitor*—W. J. MacAndrew, Esq.

On our Technical Training Farms we test and equip "blind alley" boys for useful work at home or overseas. The farms cover some 600 acres. The Hostel and Home, under the capable management of Capt. and Mrs. Warner, is at Hempstead Hall. Both at the Church Army Headquarters and at the Farm, letters are constantly received from lads who are doing well. Most of the lads have been placed in situations overseas, and it is hoped that a closer link will be made and a regular correspondence established between us and those who have been migrated or placed on home farms.

We are deeply indebted to Mr. W. J. MacAndrew for his excellent welfare work. His visits and advice to lads who have been placed in jobs on farms, etc., in the Homeland are much valued.

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During the year, 10,898 days' work were performed by the eighty-six youths in training, forty-six of whom were either migrated to the Colonies or found situations. There were twenty-eight lads in training at the end of the year.

FARNHAM SANATORIUM FOR BOYS, HEATH END, Near FARNHAM.

Medical Adviser—Dr. W. B. Vaile. *Medical Sister*—Sister Fisher. *Officers-in-Charge*—Capt. and Mrs. Barnes. *Schoolmaster*—Mr. W. Toms.

This Sanatorium is solely for lads between the ages of ten and sixteen, and is the only one exclusively for boys of those ages in the country. The object of the Sanatorium work is to arrest consumption in its earliest stages, and to make the lads fit and well. We believe that these lads stand a much better chance and are exposed to less risk in every sense of the word by being at a Home where only lads are dealt with. Almost every one of the lads who has passed through the Sanatorium has kept the good health which has been given him at the Sanatorium, whilst the spiritual influence of Capt. and Mrs. Barnes will prove also a lifelong experience. The last two years have shown 100 per cent. successes of those who completed the course of treatment. The total number of patients since 1920 is 450. Completed the course of treatment, 336; removed, 69; discharged, 45; in Sanatorium, 45.

YOUTHS' PROBATION HOMES.

STONEBRIDGE PARK, WILLESDEN.

KNIGHTRIDER STREET, MAIDSTONE.

Officers-in-Charge—WILLESDEN: Capt. and Mrs. Allen.

Assistant—Capt. Brooks.

MAIDSTONE: Capt. and Mrs. Lancaster.

Our Probation Homes are for the saving and training of England's young manhood. These Probation Homes are providing a second chance for young offenders. It is imperative that Probationers out of employment should be placed in suitable surroundings, where ability to work steadily may be acquired, and where those without suitable homes can find protection from those dangers and temptations which have so frequently been their undoing.

About one-half of the cases dealt with have been before the Court, the remainder have been lads in grave danger. 281 inmates of Homes and others were assisted with 11,369 days' work; sent to situations, 80; restored to friends or joined Army, etc., 22; and the remainder sheltered, advised and helped in various ways.

WORKERS FOR WINNIPEG.

THIS large party of boys sailed for Canada in August in charge of the Rev. A. W. Neale, Chaplain of the C.A. Hostel in Winnipeg. Some of the boys have been trained on our farm at Hempstead and thus can start their lives in the Dominion with an idea of what will be expected of them. Others have helped on farms in holiday-times and all are keen for an outdoor life and determined to



put their very best into their tasks. The boys were drawn from all parts of the kingdom—Scotland, Devon, Yorkshire, Wales, etc., and are good types for the important task of Empire building.

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