

1930/1931

60

THE LADS' LADDER.

President—Lady Bagot, R.R.C. *Secretary*—Capt. Hanmore.

Assistant Secretaries—Capts. Harris, Kemp and Simpson.

EMPLOYMENT AND WELFARE WORK AMONGST BOYS.

OBJECT :

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

The chief aim of the organization is to help lads in difficulties ; those who have made a false start, those who cannot get a start, and those who are friendless and destitute.

There were more than 1,000 cases

during the year who came under this latter heading, and were for the most part received during the night hours from the Embankment. Many come to us in a deplorable condition, and before being passed out to either Home or situation have to be fitted up with almost an entire outfit of clothing. We thank kind friends who have from time to time sent their own lad's cast-off clothing for this work, and earnestly plead for more to be sent to the Secretary of the Lads' Ladder Work.

Stanley House, Willesden and Sutton Veny, near Warminster, are used almost entirely for boys on Probation, who have been received from the Police Courts. Other lads are sent to Maidstone.

The "bad lad" problem is acute, and our Homes offer facilities for lads of this type to be removed from bad surroundings and placed under homely influences with the aim of inculcating habits of work and honesty. This, with the other Lads' Ladder work, has, during the year, met with many encouraging results.

HEMPSTEAD HALL ESTATE.

LITTLE BULL FARM AND RUSES FARM.

Officers-in-Charge—Capt. and Mrs. Warner. *Assistant*—Capt. Peterson.

The training of lads for the dominions is at a very low ebb. Few boys during the year could be placed in assured positions overseas. It was decided that, owing to the conditions prevailing, it was unwise to continue migrating lads until things improved. The good work of land training for work at home continues. Lads are received from the Embankment, Institutions and from overcrowded homes. They are tested and trained in technical work as well as in practical land work. By the varied work of carpentry, boot repairing, market gardening, general farm work, etc., etc., the boys are kept interested and busy, and develop both in body and mind, whilst the spiritual influence of the Superintendent, Matron and Staff cannot be over-estimated. Encouraging reports are continually to hand from those who have benefited by a stay at Hempstead Hall.