

The Farm has not only trained a number of young men for land work, but has also helped in the developing in body, mind and spirit of a number on the threshold of life who were received from the Special Areas.

The **Sanatorium for Lads at Heath End, Farnham**, provides for boys between the ages of 8 and 16 years, who are in the early stages of tuberculosis. By our system of after-care we find that in most cases the health of the lads who have passed through the Sanatorium has been well maintained, and the greater number are engaged in various arduous tasks with marked success. Not a few return to the Sanatorium for their holidays. During the eighteen years this work has been carried on by the Church Army, 828 cases have received treatment, and 98% of the cases on discharge were marked "arrested." During 1938 no less than 251 of the patients have written to the Superintendent expressing thanks, and only four of these report that they show any signs at all of their former weakness.

Stanley House Probation Home continues its work amongst the lads placed under our care by the various Police Courts. This Home is usually full and has sometimes a waiting list; the **Juvenile-Adults' Home at Knightrider Street, Maidstone**, is able to take any overflow.

In addition to the Homes, Training Farms, etc., we have now established a **Seaside Camp at Sea Palling, Norfolk**, for working lads. This is open from May to September. There are 12 acres of land under the shelter of the sand dunes, within 100 yards of the sea—truly an ideal camping ground. There is special provision for recreation both on the sea shore and at the Camp, and indoor and outdoor games are provided, with bathing and swimming under strict supervision.

The work of the Men's Social Department, including that of the Lads' Ladder, is a Social-Evangelistic effort, and it is encouraging to all workers, both inside and outside the Church Army, to see the good effects of the spiritual influence of the Officers and Matrons who are engaged in this very important branch of the Society's work.

1938-1939

LADS' LADDER.

Chairman—Rev. A. W. Bedford, M.A.

Secretary—Capt. Hanmore.

Assistant Secretaries—Capts. Harris, Kemp and Simpson.

OBJECT :
Employment and Welfare Work
amongst boys, including Pro-
bation Homes for Youths and
Wayside Lodges for young
wayfarers.

Work amongst young wayfarers was first started by the Men's Social Department in 1891, and was the outcome of the visiting of Casual Wards by our Social Evangelists. It is aimed at the reclamation and rescue of youths before they adopt the

life of the habitual casual.

The Lads' Ladder consists of the Wayside Lodges on the four main roads leading into London and **Livingstone House**—the Chief's new Birthday Gift Hostel at Willesden. This has ninety-one beds and up-to-date accommodation for the youth who, having been tested, remains in his job, but whose wage is not sufficient to maintain him fully, also for those from the Special Areas who are receiving training in the various Church Army Work-Aid Centres in or around London.

Our main sources of supply are the Wayside Lodges at **Clifton House**, Shepherd's Bush, and **Alexandra Grove**, Finchley. At these two Homes, youths and young men are received from the Great West and Great North Roads, not a few of whom have lost both their parents and are therefore greatly needing a safe Home, protection and guidance, which are to be found within the walls of these Homes.

At our **Stepney Home** and **Bakery** over seventy lads have during the last year been trained as bakers or confectioners, and have thus been established for life.

Hempstead Farm, with its 600 acres, is also an important link in this work. The farms in the Homeland being much in need of workers, there is therefore no difficulty in finding openings for lads who have been tested and trained on our Farms. We are glad to note that one or two have been accepted for migration, and we are hoping that the Dominions will again provide for those who seek life overseas.