

LIVING WITH THE POOR.

WHAT IS DONE AT THE NORTH STREET SETTLEMENT.

INTEREST IN THE LIBRARY AND THE MAGAZINES.

Miss Jones Tells About the Clubs and Other Activities which Attract Interest of East Side Children.

The general interest in the Hartford Social Settlement on North street was shown in the large attendance yesterday afternoon at the annual meeting which was held in Jewell Hall. Miss Mary Graham Jones, the headworker of the settlement presided and the minutes of the last annual meeting were read by Miss Caroline M. Hewins, the secretary. Miss Alice W. Stillman, the treasurer, read her report which showed receipts of \$1,279 and disbursements, \$1,189.75, leaving \$89.25 on hand. The old board of managers were re-elected, upon the motion of Walter Stanley Schutz, as follows:—

Atwood Collins, Mrs. Charles E. Dustin, Professor Henry Ferguson, Miss Harriet Gillette, Wilbur F. Gordy, Mrs. F. A. Hastings, Miss C. M. Hewins, Miss Catherine Howard, Mrs. Charles A. Jewell, Miss Mary Graham Jones, Professor Alexander R. Merriam, Miss Frances J. Niles, Mrs. L. B. Paton, Mrs. Arthur Perkins, Edward C. Perkins, Mrs. Frank I. Prentice, Rev. W. W. Ranney, Miss Mary W. Russell, Miss Alice W. Stillman.

Miss Caroline M. Hewins read a paper on the settlement library which is under her charge, in which she told of the kind of books in demand, those which are sent there by the Hartford Public Library, and the circulation, which she said was twenty-five or thirty copies weekly. She spoke of the interest taken by the boys and girls in the up-to-date magazines and periodicals and in books which refer to plays which are to come to Hartford. She said that one of the most important departments of the settlement library is a collection of reports from other settlements all over the country. Her report says:—

The accounts of Greek dramas acted by native Greeks in Hull-house; of Shakespeare plays, although far beyond anything that our little settlement can hope to do, are an encouragement to our feeble dramatic clubs, and the experiment of self-government in our boys' clubs has received an impetus when we know that it has been successfully tried elsewhere. The first printed report of the Hartford Social Settlement makes us feel as if we were no longer in debt to all other like organizations, and we have even a faint hope that it may offer one or two suggestions, especially about neighborhood workers, which will be of value elsewhere. Two articles by them are printed in full. One is an account of the Gordy club, which plays school under the direction of two little girls, one of whom has written its history. The other is the essay which was one of the eight chosen out of more than a hundred to be read at the graduation of the class of 1903 in the Hartford Public High School. It is by a girl who has been in the house almost every day for nine years, and shows the feeling of the neighborhood towards it and its work of Americanizing the children. Four of the essays read on graduation day were by girls, and the prize offered them by the class of 1888 was awarded to the simple, natural story of the Hartford Social Settlement from the inside, that gave many of the audience their first true understanding of what a settlement means to the neighborhood in which it is planted.

Miss Mary G. Jones, the head worker of the settlement, in her report of the year's work drew an interesting picture of the activities of the settlement. There are twenty-eight clubs and classes of girls and young women, nineteen boys' clubs, six mixed clubs, and other organizations make the total number of interior association, clubs or classes, fifty-three, with eighty meetings a week. There are thirty regular workers and about the same number of neighborhood workers and they get about as much benefit from the work as those with whom they work. There are besides the regular classes and clubs, games, dancing and other features of amusement and above all the settlement aims to teach cleanliness and attractiveness.

The past year a special effort has been made to develop the work for boys and more workers for boys are required. In the nineteen boys' clubs they are nearly all different boys, no boy belong-

ing to more than one club as a rule, and the boys' clubs are open every night in the week except Sunday. There are the Shamrocks, the Young Citizens, the Young Americans, the Young Wide Awakes, the Reliables, the Knights of King Arthur, the Yales, the North Stars, the Riversides and others. Clubs composed exclusively of young Jews have not been successful, for the boys did not hold together and one boy gave as a reason for it that each boy wanted to be boss.

There are nearly 200 boys enrolled in the membership of the settlement and two cooking classes for boys are a new feature. An entirely new feature the past year has been the military drill conducted by Dr. T. H. McClintock, who also has charge of the dispensary where only 10 cents is charged for an office visit with prescription, and 25 cents for a house visit. The dispensary is well patronized, Miss Jones said that her dream for the summer was for a house near Hartford, within the 10-cent limit, where boys could go after school Friday and remain there over Sunday during May and June, until Happy Cottage was opened in July.

She described the work at Heartsease the past summer and the advantages accruing from a share in "The Courant" fresh air fund, and said that the settlement had had to take five more rooms in adjoining houses to accommodate the work. She described the aims and purposes of the settlement and said that the first printed annual report would be out in a few days. It will contain a history of the settlement since it was established, ten years ago.