

THE SUPPLEMENT.

PUBLISHED BY THE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

VOL. II.

VASSAR COLLEGE, DECEMBER, 1904.

No. 1.

Editors:

CLAIRE L. REILEY, 1905, EMILY V. D. FORD, 1906.

Business Managers:

HELEN CUMPTON, 1906, ALICE C. REED, 1907.

THE SUPPLEMENT is the publication of the Christian Association. It is, as its name indicates, a supplement—a supplement to the Annual Report. It is hoped that through this paper the members of the Association may be able to understand more fully what work it is doing and, as a consequence, take a more personal interest in its work.

This year, THE SUPPLEMENT will be published again in the Spring.

WORK AMONG THE MAIDS.

The work among the two hundred maids of the college, which is conducted by the Christian Association, has been broadened this year and the attempt has been made to establish a more personal relation between the committee and the maids than has existed heretofore. To do this the Christian Association committee has affiliated itself, in a degree, with the committee for the Maid's Club appointed by the Vassar Chapter of the College Settlement. At the meetings of the "Good Fellowship Club" the committee has become acquainted with the individual girl and has been able to find out what she needs, so the work has been made more practical and is conducted with the idea of responding to the demands of the maids.

At the short prayer meetings, held the third Tuesday of every month, the subjects are such as would influence their daily life. These prayer meetings have been well attended and the maids have shown a great interest in them. The committee attributes a large part of this success to the fact that the meetings are exclusively for the maids. No student, except the leader, attends them, the hymns being played by one of the maids.

Besides the prayer meetings, a circulating library is conducted by the committee. The students have kindly given two hundred or more volumes for this library and, by means of it, it has been made possible to give the maids good books to read in their unoccupied time, instead of the very poor ones which before this were, in the majority of cases, the only kind they could obtain.

The first three months of the work for the maids in 1904-5 was ended by a Christmas party on Friday night, Dec. 16. There was a tree in the Main dining room and from it toys were given to the little brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, of all who are employed by the college. Candy was given to every one, and after the distribution of these things there was singing and dancing and a good time generally.

A. B. WRIGHT, 1905.

POUGHKEEPSIE EXTENSION WORK.

The first term work to be started this year was at the Home for the Friendless where there are sixty or more children between the ages of two and fourteen. Our first visit there was about half-past four of an afternoon at which time we found the ten or twelve smallest children already going to bed. Night-gowned, they sat in a row on a very long low bench, taking off shoes and stockings. One of the thirteen-year-old girls had charge of helping the little ones to bed and she was then undressing the youngest baby, a boy of two. He toddled very eagerly to Miss Conklin, the matron, when we entered with her, and by his baby manners set the row of children on the bench laughing in a shy but hospitable fashion. Down stairs we found the rest of the children in a corridor, getting hands and face clean and hair brushed after the play time and before supper. The scrubbing of hands was over and boys on one side of the hallway, and girls on the other were brushing their hair, the big ones helping the little ones and everything proceeding very pacifically. When all were ready, they marched into the dining room where each child has a dish of milk and a big slice of bread waiting at his place. He can have as much more of either as he wants but that is the supper. Before they sit down to eat, they bow their heads and repeat together a short grace asking Jesus "to bless our food and make us good."

After seeing them enjoying the very good bread and milk, we went back up stairs and peeped into the sleeping room of the babies. The room was darkened, and they were all tucked up. Here and there came a murmur or a little piping voice making some hushed good-night remark to the world in general. The babies seemed so perfectly model in behaviour that we asked Miss Conklin if they were always so. She said that they were human and that sometimes all the twelve would catch a nervous baby's excitement so that the commotion would last most of the night.

Learning that they had not been out of the grounds except to church in over six weeks we tried to arrange for a Saturday picnic outdoors around Sunset, but found that was not permitted except once a year for the New York children. As no place could be found where we could go and have a warm dry place in which to rest and eat luncheon, we are leaving the outdoor picnics till warm weather. For this we shall want all money contributions, however small, which any one may be pleased to give for the luncheon and carryall expenses.

But in order that they might have some kind of fun that Saturday, we went to spend the afternoon, taking six pounds of candy for use in various ways. We played "hide the candy" instead of "hide the thimble" and sent each child who found and then hid a candy, into another room where they were playing another game. This continued till each one had had a