

down by the Country's Food Controller necessarily lead me to modify that which I had unreservedly proposed to urge.

"An interview with the authorities of the Food Controller's Department makes it evident that there exists at present no absolute rule as to the amount allowed of such stores as many Homes anticipate from their Pound Days, or the length of time goods may be kept. I suggest therefore that Pound Days be initiated as usual: that the appeal for their support emphasise the difficulties and ask for a money contribution rather than one in 'kind,' but that the latter be by no means discouraged. Much, it appears to me, will depend upon the attitude of the local representative of the Food Controller's Office; and I advise that the Chairman or Secretary of the House Committee should as a preliminary step interview this official and so far as possible secure his goodwill and a 'friendly ruling' on the subject. I need hardly add that I shall be glad to be made acquainted with any special local difficulties which may occur over this matter, and to give such advice as I can or to approach the Central Authorities dealing with the food question.—Yours sincerely,

"E. de M. RUDOLF."

What Pound Days do really mean to the Society was illustrated by reports from several Homes given in our last number. The following recent returns from Homes in Chester Diocese alone are further proofs of their value. Tattenhall, 990lbs. and £19 15s; Rock Ferry, 1,787lbs.; New Brighton, 656lbs. and £13 6s; Altrincham, 113lbs. and £14 2s; Knutsford, 642lbs. and £2 17s. Over 5,000lbs. and £50 as contributions for just five Homes in one county! And these figures do not include substantial contributions of firewood, potatoes, and clothing! Who would drop Pound Days?

"Amnesty Week" brought in to the Homes many contributions, anonymous and otherwise, from those who need not be held guilty of "hoarding" but who felt that their laudable desire to save had led to a personal possession of more than a "fair share" of the national store. The Editor himself was invaded late one evening in his office corner by the genial bearer of a kit-bag bulging with rice, sugar and beans!

Remember that our boys and girls are doing all they can to meet the feeding difficulties. There is hardly a Home which is not utilising every inch of its garden, and many have secured allotments as well. Then of course there are the Farm Homes which do things on the big scale; in fact, every scrap of available ground from the fifty-acre farm to the foot-square plot, every species of food

from cattle and grain to tame rabbits and radishes; is receiving attention from our own young workers. A collection of pictures of such industries would be valuable, but for the present we can only suggest what is being done by pictures which show what some of our efforts were in the old days of peace.

Here is just one startling proof of the urgency of our plea for substantial additional support. At this time last year the Society had £6000 in hand on which to go forward. To-day that reserve has no existence, and we are living "from hand to mouth," virtually depending for our daily bread upon the daily contributions of our well-wishers.

Little repairs are being very gallantly carried out in the Homes without asking for that outside help which it is so difficult to obtain. Boys and masters—aye, girls and matrons—have discovered themselves as expert paper-hangers and glaziers and painters—when, that is to say, they can secure the paper and glass and paint!

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Altogether the March number is most interesting, especially from the old boys of the Homes, who are so splendidly distinguishing themselves in the Army and Navy on every front and battlefield. The Rev. H. Packe, M.A., Gisborne, is appealing on behalf of the Church of England Waifs and Strays' Society, and will be glad to forward any subscriptions sent to him. We commend the matter to Sunday School superintendents. The Church of England Society undertook the care of 962 new cases during the year ending December 31st, 1917. Of these 734 were "rescued" cases, the remainder orphans, children of poor widows, deserted and illegitimate children. The Society has at present in its 113 homes 3539 children. It has passed through its own homes since its foundation 17,423 children, and has found good private homes for 22,728.

Interesting Government statistics given in the "Church Standard", March 8th, show that in Australia the percentage of ministers to percentage of population of the various denominations is as follows:—Church of England, 30 per cent. of ministers, 44.5 per cent. population; Roman Catholics, 24.3, 22.8; Methodists, 15.9, 9; Presbyterians, 14.3, 11; Congregational and Baptists, 4, 1; Salvation Army, 1.6, .5; Seventh Day Adventists, 1.8, .12; so that Roman Catholics in proportion to membership have 2½ times as many clergy as we have; Methodist, 2½; Presbyterians, 2; Congregational and Baptists, 6½; Salvation Army, 5; Seventh Day Adventists, 24.

A Sheaf of Extracts.

Relating to Church Army Huts.

From Sir Archibald Murray's despatch on the operations at Gaza:—

"The impossibility of granting leave home on any extended scale has rendered the Army in the field dependent on rest camps and voluntary institutions for that rest and relaxation so necessary in view of the arduous conditions of campaigning in the desert and in tropical heat. I wish to take this, my last, opportunity of expressing the thanks of the whole Field Force to those ladies and gentlemen who have done so much to obviate the deprivations imposed on it by those conditions. Especially are they due to the Church Army... whose Recreation Huts are provided, not only in the rest camps, but also throughout the front. It would be hard to exaggerate the value of these institutions, both in sustaining the morale and the health of the troops."

From Mr Philip Gibbs' communique in the "Daily Telegraph" and "Daily Chronicle," 28th November:—

"There are no estaminets behind the lines of this fighting front into which our men can go for sing-song for an hour or two on their way to the front; and no whole billets in which they can rest when they are relieved in the lines; and they seem like men in the middle of a great desert, enormously far from the civilised world, enormously lonely. They are lonely except for their own comradeship and their own playfulness, and the help of padres and other friendly souls of the Church Army... who put up tents and huts in this wilderness, and arrange a little entertainment of body and soul for men who would otherwise be parched for such things."

From a letter from a private soldier somewhere on the West front:—

"I came across a Church Army Hut well in the line. I think it is about the only hut I have seen close up. Tea and coffee, etc., and games are a great comfort to our men, and whoever is in charge of this hut deserves great praise for his pluck, because it is in a very hot quarter which comes under heavy shell-fire."

From a private in R.A.M.C. on the West front:—

"For the past two months we have been in an area where there was very heavy shelling, so much so that it was impossible to erect a Recreation Hut near us, but we were not long in finding a Church Army Hut, which was about twenty minutes' walk further back. Each Sunday a good number of our ambulance used to make the journey thither, enjoying to the