

Children in our County House.

The annual report of the State Board of Charities lately transmitted to the Legislature, in reviewing the condition of the pauper children in the different counties, speaks thus of those under the charge of Mr. Winne:

There were in the Ulster County Poor House on the 31st of December, 1874, twenty-one (21) children—fifteen (15) boys and six (6) girls.—Three were under two years of age; fourteen between two and ten years of age, and four over ten and under sixteen. Seven of the children were born in the poor-house. The fathers of fourteen were of American birth. The birth-place of seven was unknown. The mothers of sixteen were born in the United States. The birth-place of five is not given. The entire time of child-life spent in this poor-house by those remaining at the date of inquiry, was thirty-five years and eight months. Nine of the children were illegitimate, ten had intemperate fathers, and three had intemperate mothers. The fathers of two are reported as debased; likewise the mothers of ten. Three children had pauper grandmothers, fourteen had pauper brothers; eight had pauper sisters; three had pauper uncles; and four had pauper aunts.

At the date of examination, the fathers of two of the children and the mothers of fourteen were in the poor-house. Nineteen of the children are reported healthy. Two children—a sister and half-brother, the father of one of whom is serving out a term in State Prison, are here with their mother. Their grandmother has been an inmate of the poor-house, as was also a brother, who is out and is now supposed to be self-supporting. The father of the children, as well as the grand-

father was intemperate. One girl only fourteen years of age, who had been leading for some time a very abandoned life, had been sent here by her friends. She was the oldest of seven children; her parents are dead, and the other six children are provided with homes by friends.—This poor ignorant child has but slight chances of reform unless placed in some correctional institution where habits of self-restraint and industry will be taught, and old associations broken up.

There are several very interesting, and strikingly sad illustrations in this county of the evils resulting from children being permitted to live in poor-houses.

There have been ten boys placed in families out of the Ulster County poor-house, during the past year. They ranged between the ages of seven and twelve years. Five were orphan children; four half-orphan; and two had parents living. All were healthy. Six were placed with farmers; two with boatmen; one with a merchant; and one with a grocer. All were well provided for with bodily comforts. All have attended school more or less, except two. Three are known to have made satisfactory progress in their studies. The influences surrounding five are thought to be good, with four doubtful, and one bad. Five were doing well, four fairly, and one doubtful.—One of the boys placed with a boatman, and who was attending school, recently absconded, and was drowned in the canal.