

## Historical sources: excerpts from 1905 report

..... (our honorary *Canvasser*)  
will call on..... for the  
favour of your subscription.

**REPORT**  
OF THE  
**DEPTFORD**  
*Ragged and Industrial School.*  
**GIFFIN STREET,**  
FOR  
**1905.**

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*ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 1st, 1844.*

**“Rid them out of the hands of the Wicked.”**

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### BOYS' CLUB.



THE Club is fortunate in still having Mr. S. W. Tindley as leader as well as Messrs! Boorne, W. J. Laver, J. Laver, T. Harding, A. N. Wigner, A. Stook, Miss Powell and Miss George assisting him.

They are all in hearty sympathy with the Lads and exercise a truly good influence over them.

Mr. TINDLEY writes :

“The Boys' Club opens on Tuesdays from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m., and has an average attendance from 40 to 50 boys. The Gymnasium is still popular. The Games and Papers are also in requisition. Last year a fretwork class was started, in which great interest was shown. The boys making some useful and pretty articles, this is being continued this season. This fretwork has opened up to my mind the most important question of endeavouring to get the lads to **know some handicraft**, so that they shall not enter into casual and unskilled employment. I hope to embark (D.V.) on a new venture this season relating thereto.

We also hope to have a Football Club.

## CAST-OFF CLOTHING.



clothing



WE have received several parcels of cast-off garments and tender our sincere thanks for them. We would like to receive many more. Will all our readers kindly see if they

cannot send something? A post card to Miss F. M. WATTS, 63, Breakspears Road, will ensure collection.

## FLOWER SHOW.

A successful show was held under the management of Miss T. Arnold and Mr. A. Wigner, whose keen interest encouraged the children in much larger numbers to cultivate plants and seeds in their windows. As many as 759 pots were distributed, but only 364 were brought for show, being an increase of 160 on last year. Many teachers visited the homes, and found much enthusiasm on the part of all the families on their "little garden." At the Show prizes were distributed by Mrs. D. Hines and an appropriate address given by Mr. Abel.

## SUMMER AND WINTER TREATS.



WE think the highest standard of enjoyment known to our children is "The Treat." It is looked forward to, then enjoyed, and then thought of and talked about.

In the summer we again went to Ashted Woods, a most suitable place, good accommodation for meals, and delightful country.

Room to ramble in the woods, and gather wild flowers, or sit in the shade of trees, or run, skip, play cricket, or any of the well-known games. A delightful day was spent, and hearty were the cheers for subscribers and teachers, whose kindness had made such a day possible. About 700 children and 200 adults and

teachers were present. In the winter about the same number enjoyed a Tea and Magic Lantern, kindly lent by J. M. WIGNER, Esq.

ONE is impressed with the apparent monotony of the round of visiting day after day in the streets one has seen so often. Yet there is plenty of variety in the everchanging circumstances. The changes in the external appearance of the district are few, if any; but, as of old, we find that men come and go, some removed by death, more by the **struggle of life**, which takes them away to other parts to seek a living, their places being taken by others as badly off.

The year has been most trying. The general slackness of trade has seriously affected the conditions of life of these poor people at the bottom of the ladder. It has been **most pitiable to hear** time after time stories of privation from want of work. Men who have walked for miles morning after morn-

ing in search of work, returning unsuccessful day after day, tired and disappointed. Some have done no work for six months at a stretch, while a few fortunate men have got into work again after a few days of idleness. All the varieties that come between these experiences have been brought to my notice with appeals for help that are almost heartbreaking.

The women who usually go out to work have complained quite as bitterly as the men. There is not so much charring to be obtained, or else there are more people anxious to get it, so that I frequently hear complaints as to the difficulty of supplementing the income in this way in order that the children may have something to eat.

I often hear how kindly and nobly the poor people help each other, sharing the little they have with those **worse off than themselves**. At other times one hears little bits of jealousy that make it hard to do anything in the shape of relieving poverty without the right hand knowing what the left hand does.

