

indicating the care taken of all, and the unbounded benevolence of all classes and peoples who have made San Francisco their abiding place.

The secret orders and societies are in great number and of high standing. Masonic, Odd Fellows, Druids, Red Men, etc., are bodies of great wealth and usefulness, and fill an important place in the society of San Francisco. Several of these possess stately edifices, have extensive libraries, maintain banks, publish papers, and in various ways manifest their importance and perform their duties. Added to these are the Immigrant Aid Association, Prison Association, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and numerous others, showing the broad field occupied. The extent and character of these compare favorably with the Social and Benevolent societies of any other land, and are a matter of just pride to every citizen. Their maintenance usually depends upon voluntary contributions or exactions by the rules of membership. To some of these, efficient support could not be obtained in such a manner, and being of general benefit, aid from the State was obtained. Thus, in part, are the two Orphan Asylums, Foundling Hospital, Prison Commissions, Magdalen Asylum, Lying-in Hospital, and Ladies Protection and Relief Society, maintained. Unusual aid was given by Mr. A. Hellman, the winner of the great prize of \$100,000 given by the Mercantile Library Association, who generously devoted \$5,000 to the various benevolent societies of San Francisco. This needed aid was most appropriate, and an honor to the generous donor.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

This association, founded in 1853, has for its object the moral, mental, and social improvement of young men. It has, at its elegant building on Sutter Street, a fine reading room, library, gymnasium, lecture room, etc. It is also the design of the association to provide, so far as possible, employment, a place of social comfort and resort, and a local point of pleasant attraction for young men arriving here without other acquaintance than those made here. The library contains about four thousand volumes of well-selected and valuable works, embracing all branches of literature; and the reading room is supplied with the best newspapers and leading periodicals of the country.

The regular meetings of the association are held on the third Monday evening of each month, when the usual business is transacted; and when there is not a pressure of business, literary and musical exercises are held.

The building of the association is on the north side of Sutter, between Kearny and Dupont streets; is built of brick, with a massive and ornate stone front; and is one hundred and twenty feet deep by fifty-four and a half feet wide. The basement and ground floors are occupied by stores, the second floor by the library, reading room, ladies' rooms, chess room, ante-rooms, and a hall for lectures, etc., which has a capacity for seating seven hundred and fifty persons. Beneath the lecture room is a gymnasium; and in the third story are committee rooms, hall for meetings of the association, and apartments for offices, etc., for rent. The edifice is well arranged with every convenience for comfort and for the purposes for which it was designed.

SAN FRANCISCO BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.

Of all the benevolent institutions established in our city, none have been productive of more real, substantial and lasting good, in proportion to the means employed, than the San Francisco Benevolent Association. Although only six years old, filling up, as it has done, a most important hiatus in the benevolent institutions of the day, this association has, in a quiet and unpretentious way, been productive of incalculable good.

The number of persons assisted since its organization is as follows: From April, 1865, to April, 1866, seven thousand six hundred and thirty-two; April, 1866, to April, 1867, seven thousand four hundred and five; April, 1867, to April, 1868, six thousand seven hundred and eighty-two; April, 1868, to April, 1869, seven thousand one hundred and forty-eight; April, 1869, to April, 1870, seven thousand and twenty-four; April, 1870, to April, 1871, eight thousand one hundred and sixty—making a total of forty-four thousand one hundred and fifty-one persons, at a cost of \$164,325.75.

The particular business and objects of the Association are the elevation of the physical and moral condition of the indigent; and so far as is compatible with these objects and the means at control, the relief of their immediate necessities.

Officers.—Robert B. Swain, President; J. W. Stow, Treasurer; I. S. Allen, Secretary. The rooms of the Association are at No. 10 Webb Street.

CALIFORNIA LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE.

This institution designed to furnish labor for all applicants, irrespective of sex or nationality, was organized in the early part of April, 1867. No fees are exacted from those to whom employment is furnished, the expenses of the Exchange being defrayed by a State appropriation of \$500 per month, as per Act of the Legislature, approved April 1st, 1870. From the commencement of operations, April 27th, 1868, until July 1st, 1870, employment had been supplied to twenty-four thousand five hundred and eighty-one persons, six thousand seven hundred and twenty-six of whom were females. The applicants were made up of all nationalities and callings, the greater portion consisting of farm laborers and mechanics, though situations were secured for persons of every vocation, where practicable. The total amount expended for the support of the Labor Exchange, from April 27th, 1868, to July 1st, 1870, was \$19,187.44. The office and headquarters are at 819 Montgomery Street, where the very efficient Secretary of the establishment, A. Zeehandelaar, and Mrs A. L. P. Bidleman, matron of the female department, will be found in attendance.

THE CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT UNION.

The immediate cause of the establishment of this society was the attempt of Mr. W. H. Martin, of Baltimore, to form in this city a branch of the International Union, of which he was General Agent. The committee of merchants and others to whom the subject was referred, at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, reported in favor of a distinct organization for California; and accordingly in October, 1869, the California Immigrant Union was formed for the promotion of immigration to California. This it was proposed to do by the publication and dissemination of information concerning the resources of the State, and the inducements offered to immigration, its vacant government and private lands, and the means and cost of coming here, and facilitating by every possible means the travel of immigrants, and their location and settlement upon their arrival, and the establishment of foreign agencies for the same purpose. At the session of the Legislature of 1869-70, a strong effort was made to procure an appropriation of public monies to carry out these objects under the management of Commissioners appointed by the Governor or otherwise, acting independently or in conjunction with the officers of the Union. Differences of opinion as to the amount of such an appropriation, and the details of such a bill, prevented any legislation upon the subject and the effort failed.

The merchants of San Francisco, though discouraged, were so thoroughly impressed with the importance of the movement, that in April, 1870, they subscribed the funds necessary for the support of