

the Union, though its operations were necessarily more restricted than was originally contemplated. Since then it has been actively engaged in its work, and a large amount of printed information relative to the climate and resources of California has been circulated throughout the Eastern States, Canada, Australia, England and Europe, and supplied in answer to a very extensive correspondence requesting such information. Immigrants upon their arrival, on application at the office of the Union, are supplied with such information as they desire concerning the government lands, private lands, etc., and routes and expense of travel, and otherwise facilitated in their settlement. Correspondence is replied to and information supplied gratuitously to those abroad who desire to be informed concerning the State, and every legitimate effort made to induce those coming westward to select California as their future home and assist in the development of its resources. No fee or charge whatever is made for services rendered. The office of the Union is at No. 316 California Street. Its officers are: C. T. Hopkins, President; Charles S. Capp, First Vice-President and Manager; W. H. Martin, Secretary and General Agent.

### Hospitals.

In so far as number and size are concerned, the hospitals of San Francisco will compare favorably with other cities of its extent and population. Private institutions abound. The Germans and French have for years had fine hospital buildings, the one belonging to the latter having recently received extensive additions. The Sisters of Mercy own a large structure on Rincon Hill; and the Italians have within a year or two completed a commodious hospital four miles from the business part of the city. The special purpose of these hospitals is to provide for the necessities of certain classes of our population, but all who desire to avail themselves of their advantages are admitted. The buildings are not only commodious but are well adapted for the purposes designed. It is to be regretted that the same remark cannot be made of the one belonging to the city. Several years since, authority was given the Supervisors to cause to be erected a hospital building, suitable to the requirements of our rapidly growing city, and \$250,000 were appropriated for the purpose. For some reason or other, no steps, beyond procuring plans, toward the construction of this much needed building have yet been taken. The buildings now in use are altogether inadequate for their purposes. The principal one was constructed for a school house and converted into a hospital in 1857. Some years later, a large wooden building—little better than a barn, was put up on the same lot. As the city grew and the number of "indigent sick" increased, various means were adopted to supply immediate necessities. In 1867 a large Almshouse was commenced near Lake Honda. The removal of the superannated and permanently disabled to this place, from the City and County Hospital, where they had been accumulating for years, relieved the latter of a serious inconvenience and increased its capacity for those actually sick. The Hospital, however, was soon filled to overflowing again, and so great had this overcrowding become at the beginning of 1870, that it called forth a remonstrance from the San Francisco Medical Society, which appointed a committee to institute suitable investigations. This committee found that the hospital contained 408 beds scarcely one of which was vacant; that the average space to each bed was 490 cubic feet, some having as low as 260 cubic feet and none having so much as a thousand, while in all properly constructed hospitals of the present day, not less than 1200 cubic feet are allowed

to each patient. In consequence of this report, an additional building was erected upon the hospital lot, thus relieving, in large part the overcrowding, but greatly curtailing the grounds. As this was but a temporary measure, it is probable that work upon the new hospital will be commenced within the year. The building, as designed, will be three stories and an attic high, and is to measure four hundred and forty-five feet front, including two front wings. It is to have two rear wings each one hundred and twenty feet long, and is so arranged that other wings may be added at any time if required.

The United States Marine Hospital at Rincon Point, is the largest structure of the kind on the Pacific Coast, and is capable of accommodating about eight hundred patients, though it rarely had over one hundred inmates. When built, in 1853, it was far out of town, but now the city has so extended around it as to render its site exceedingly desirable for commercial purposes. Extensive grading of the surrounding property has left the building upon a high embankment, and somewhat impaired its foundation, though it is believed that any further injury to the building may be prevented by proper care. The hospital has been vacant since the severe earthquake of 1868, the patients now being accommodated in the buildings formerly used as the State Deaf and Dumb Asylum. It is uncertain what disposition will be made of the structure on Rincon Hill, or what provision will be made for the patients in the future.

Besides the institutions enumerated above, there are several smaller ones which have been established through the munificence of our citizens, and whose names indicate their special uses; these are the State Woman's Hospital, the San Francisco Woman's Hospital, the Foundling and Lying-in Asylum, etc., etc.

At a rough estimate, it may be stated that our city hospitals, public and private, (exclusive of the old Marine Hospital building, now vacant) can accommodate from thirteen hundred to fourteen hundred patients, and that the average number which they actually contain does not vary much from one thousand.

In the fall of 1865 was created the San Francisco Health Office; before this time no mortuary records had been preserved by the city. In 1870, a bill passed the Legislature organizing a city Board of Health, and giving it control of the Health Office and the appointments in all the public charitable institutions of the city and county. From a small beginning, the Health Department has grown into a very important branch of the city government. It controls appointments involving an expense to the city of several thousand dollars a month, and has a general oversight of all sanitary affairs. If its operations are conducted with wisdom, foresight and intelligence, this department is calculated to be of great benefit to the city.

### Associations—Protective, Literary, Etc.

For a description of the different associations, the reader is referred to the Appendix, pages 892-900, in which will be found the officers and operations of each during the past year. The progress made by many of these associations reflects credit upon the members thereof, and is worthy of the liberality so generously extended in their support.

### Libraries.

It may be set down as a fixed fact that there is no surer indication of the progression and prosperity of a community than the number and condition of its libraries. In this department, San Francisco may safely challenge competition with any city of its