

thousand and twenty-four; April, 1870, to April, 1871, eight thousand one hundred and sixty; April, 1871, to April, 1872, eight thousand two hundred and fifty—making a total of fifty-two thousand four hundred and one persons, at a cost of \$188,325 75.

#### 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 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. From December, 1869, to December, 1871, the number of applicants for information in reference to public lands, from the United States, amounted to 2,546; from foreign countries, 876, making a total of 3,422—most of whom have been comfortably settled, and are well pleased with the country. 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 those of 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 few years 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 was appropriated for the purpose. For some reason or other, no steps, beyond procuring plans, toward the construction of this much needed building were taken until recently. 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 superannuated 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 was hoped the new hospital would be commenced at once. The delay has been such, however, as to make us fear the necessity of using indefinitely the old tumble-down hospital, which would disgrace any city in America. But doubts have now given place to certainty. The hospital building is in actual process of erection, and will probably be completed by the end of May, 1872. It is to be a building, too, worthy of the object in view; and having a much more suitable location than the present one. It is to occupy the two blocks bounded by Nevada, Sierra and Nebraska streets and Potrero Avenue, fronting on the latter. These measure 866 feet by 481 feet, a sufficient area for hospital purposes for many years to come. The plan of the building is entirely different from that usually adopted. Several individual structures, most of them at considerable distance from each other, but connected by a long covered corridor, unite to form the hospital. With the exception of the kitchen and laundry, which will be of brick, all the buildings are of wood with brick foundation. The individual structures are: The administrative and dining-hall buildings, each three stories high, situated in the centre of the block, opposite each other, and on either side of the centre of the covered corridor, which is 556 feet long and 18 feet wide, and runs lengthwise of the block; the kitchen and laundry, back of the dining-rooms; the chapel, at the south end of the corridor; the gate-house, stable, morgue, operating room, dressing room, etc., scattered about in various