

care of the cases then on our hands, and all subsequent out-door work of that kind.

During the past year, one hundred and twenty-two adults and children have been inmates of the Home; of these, eight have been indentured or adopted, leaving the present number seventy-two. The ages of the children range from one to fourteen years.

A school is maintained at the Home, in which all the children old enough are daily taught all the elementary branches. The average number of scholars the past year has been upwards of fifty. Gratifying improvement has been made; but the changes incident to the plan of operations often remove the most promising. Yet this is the only way to secure the highest good of the child, as it has never been any part of the plans of the society to assume the permanent support or education of any.

#### ORPHAN ASYLUM (PROTESTANT).

This benevolent and praiseworthy institution was organized January 31st, 1851, and incorporated by act of the Legislature on the tenth of the ensuing month. To the almost unaided efforts of a few ladies we are indebted for this noble institution, which now stands as a monument to their charity and goodness of heart. The asylum was first located on the corner of Folsom and Secord streets, in a building owned by General H. W. Halleck, from whence it was removed in March, 1854, to the present building, a commodious and elegant stone structure, which was finished at an expense of \$30,000. This building occupies the block bounded by Laguna, Octavia, Page, and Webster streets, and is roomy and adequate to the wants of the class for whose benefit it has been founded. Dependent mainly upon private benevolence for support, the institution is one of the proudest monuments of the liberality of the people of San Francisco. In the construction of the building two important matters have been carefully kept in view, which are too often lost sight of in the planning of many public buildings of the present day—ventilation and light. To the abundant supply of fresh air introduced into every portion of the building, combined with the abundant and substantial supply of food furnished the children, and the daily exercise allowed them, may be attributed the unexampled health of the inmates. Every department is thorough and complete, clean, orderly, and well kept; the dormitories are spacious and airy, with everything neat and comfortable; large play-rooms are provided for the exercise of the children, when confined in-doors by the weather; the school room, dining room, kitchen, laundry, wash and bath rooms, are all upon a scale commensurate with the wants of the institution, and everything connected with each is arranged and conducted in the most admirable manner. In the school the children are taught the solid branches, with the addition of drawing and exercises in singing, and in point of aptness and proficiency the pupils will compare favorably with any of the public schools of the city. The elevated location of the asylum commands a view of a great portion of the city and bay, with the opposite shore, and when further improvements are made to the grounds, which are very much needed, a more picturesque and beautiful spot cannot be anywhere found in the vicinity of the city. The Legislature of 1864 appropriated \$15,000 for the support of this institution, and for the improvement of the orphan grounds.

The present number of inmates is one hundred and sixty-four, of which seventy-five are girls; and of this number but a very small proportion are from San Francisco. The whole State, and indeed the entire Pacific Coast, claims for its orphans a home and a shelter in the San Francisco Orphan Asylum; and applications constantly being made from even the most remote parts of this and adjoining States

and Territories, asking admission sometimes for whole families of orphan children, prove that this institution is being known throughout the land; and through the liberality of its patrons, and the assistance rendered by the State, its managers are enabled to give favorable replies to these numerous calls.

#### CATHOLIC ORPHAN ASYLUM.

This institution is located on Market Street, near its junction with Kenry, on a lot donated for the purpose by Timothy Murphy of Marin County. The main building, which is a handsome edifice, fronts on Market Street—the school and infirmary buildings being located in the rear. The children, females—the male asylum of the Order being located on the property donated for the purpose by the same testator, at San Rafael, Marin County—number upwards of three hundred. Every attention is paid to the mental and physical training of the children, who are truly healthy and happy. All the solid branches of education are taught in the school, with music and other accomplishments—the asylum being provided with three pianos for the use of the orphans. The rooms are well ventilated, and every attention is paid to the health of the inmates. The play-grounds are ample, and provided with every appliance for healthy exercise. Some of the teachers have been brought up and educated in the institution. Two of the finest globes, terrestrial and celestial, to be found on this coast, belong to this institution. The asylum is supported by the Order under which it was instituted, by donations and private contributions, and by appropriations from the State. The asylum is under the charge of Sister Frances, who is truly a mother to the orphans.

#### STATE DEAF AND DUMB AND BLIND INSTITUTION.

This admirable institution was organized under the auspices of the State, under an Act of the Legislature of 1860, and under its fostering care is now one of the most flourishing institutions in the land. The buildings were erected upon a large lot at the corner of Mission and Fifteenth streets, and are ample for the accommodation of all the pupils that will be apt to be in attendance for years to come. The Legislature of 1863 passed an Act levying a special tax of one mill on each one hundred dollars, for the support of this institution, and the erection of other buildings. The immediate control of the institution was originally assigned to a board of benevolent ladies; but the last Legislature removed them, and passed a law placing the management under the control of a board of three trustees. At present there are sixty-two pupils, about equally divided. The pupils are under the charge of competent teachers, who instruct them in reading, writing, needle-work, etc.—the blind being also instructed in music. While this is a charitable institution, the benefits of which are denied to none, parents who are able are required to pay a small sum yearly for the care and attention bestowed upon their unfortunate children.

#### 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 less than a year 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. It was organized at a time when the want of such an institution was most severely felt and its aid most essentially needed. While our City and State were eliciting the admiration of the entire Union for the liberality of their largesses to the various funds for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers, there was here at home, in our