

United States, each State being represented by a Senator. At its meetings, bills are introduced and national questions discussed, governed by all the rules of legislative bodies.

The association has recently purchased a very desirable lot, situated on the north side of Sutter Street, between Kearny and Dupont Streets, 54½ feet front, and running through to Berry Street, 120 feet in depth. On this they propose to erect immediately a three-story and basement brick edifice, arranged with every accommodation for the association. The plans embrace, on the first floor, two stores on Sutter Street for renting, a wide entrance and a Gymnasium, on the second floor large and commodious reading, conversation and library rooms, a parlor for ladies, and a Hall seating 800 persons for public meetings. The third floor is arranged for committee rooms and offices for renting.

The association numbers two hundred and eighty-six members of three classes: Life, Active and Associate.

To become a member, the name of the applicant must first be proposed for membership at a regular monthly meeting, by a member of the association, which proposal will be acted upon at the next monthly meeting; *provided*, said applicant has paid the yearly dues, which for an active member is five dollars, and for an associate, three. No initiation fee is charged. Members of evangelical churches in good standing, only, may become active members. Life members are constituted by the payment of one hundred dollars at any one time. Only active and life members are qualified to vote and eligible to office. The rooms of the association are at 526 California Street, opposite the California Market, and are open to the public the year round from 8, A.M. to 10, P.M. The library is open every day (Sundays excepted) from 3 to 10 o'clock, P.M.

Officers—George Barstow, President; D. C. Breed, Baptist, John Dunn, Presbyterian, W. F. Kellet, Methodist, C. J. King, Congregational, W. M. Cubery, Episcopal, Vice Presidents; James F. Crossett, Recording Secretary; Samuel W. Backus, Corresponding Secretary; H. L. Chamberlain, Treasurer; James Woodworth, Librarian.

LADIES' PROTECTION AND RELIEF SOCIETY.

This institution, organized August 4th, 1863, by the benevolent ladies of San Francisco, and incorporated August 9th the year following, has been productive of a large amount of good in relieving the distress of sick and destitute women and children, and providing employment for females desirous of procuring work. To carry out this praiseworthy object, the society has erected a Home on Franklin Street, between Post and Geary, where protection, aid, and information is cheerfully furnished to all residents and strangers included within the sphere of its benevolent operations. The Legislature of 1863-4, amongst other appropriations for the assistance of the benevolent institutions of the State, allotted this association \$6,000, which aided in paying for the Home.

From the organization of the society, till the first of April, 1865, a large part of the work has been caring for families in the city who needed assistance in the way of provisions, fuel, clothing, nurses, medical aid, and medicines, payment of rents, etc. A total of sixty-one families were aided in this manner, during the seven months ending April 1st, 1865, besides the maintenance of the Home. At the time referred to, the San Francisco Benevolent Society commenced its work, and generously assumed the care of the cases then on our hands, and all subsequent out-door work of that kind.

During the past year, nearly two hundred adults and children have been inmates of the Home; of these, many have been indentured or adopted. 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 one hundred. 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 Second 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 seventy-nine, of which seventy-six 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.