

ROMAN CATHOLIC ORPHAN ASYLUM.

This truly charitable institution, whose end is the moral and physical training of the countless orphans of our State, is located on the south side of Market Street, between Second and Third. The principal buildings fronting on Market Street, contain dormitories, refectories, clothes-rooms, &c., while the infirmary, kitchen, and laundry occupy the buildings in the rear. The rooms are commodious and well ventilated. Every care is taken of the health of the inmates. The extensive play ground affords an adequate resource of out-door exercise, while the spacious recreation hall offers a similar means for indoor amusement.

A branch of this institution is situated at Hunter's Point, for small children of both sexes, and those whose delicate constitutions require the country air. The two Asylums are under the care of the Most Rev. Archbishop Alemany and the Sisters of Charity.

SAINT VINCENT SCHOOL.

This is a female day school, on Jessie Street, between Second and Third, under the direction of the Sisters of Charity. All the solid branches of education are taught, with music and other accomplishments. The number of pupils is over eight hundred.

DEAF, DUMB AND BLIND ASYLUM.

This institution, at present located on the corner of Mission and Fourteenth Streets, will be removed to the site at Oakland recently selected by the State Commissioners as soon as the buildings now in the course of erection can be completed. The immediate control of the institution was originally assigned to a board of benevolent ladies; but the last Legislature passed a law placing the management under the control of a Board of Commissioners. At present there are seventy pupils, of whom twenty-five are blind. The pupils are under the charge of competent teachers, who instruct them in reading, writing, needle-work, &c.—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. See Benevolent Associations, page 672.

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 three 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. 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 very midst, a large amount of suffering which was unrelieved and unprovided for. This was not so much owing to the apathy or indifference of such of our citizens as were able and willing to relieve the wants of the deserving, as from the fact that such cases were comparatively unknown, or their knowledge in a majority of instances confined to but the few, who were in most cases compelled to seek them out. Hundreds, even in our own active and busy community, able and willing to work—in many cases recently landed upon these shores, penniless, destitute, literally strangers in a strange land—were unable to find employment, and many deserving ob-

jects, suffering from destitution and disease, were deterred from seeking aid by that barrier of personal pride and self-respect which ever forms a barrier around those who have seen better days. A few public-spirited and charitable citizens, fully alive to the work, and seriously desiring to relieve the necessities and procure the means of livelihood for the sensitive and deserving, formed this association and established an agency for carrying out this laudable design, where parties needing assistance and employment might without degradation in their own estimation make such application. The public were requested, through the papers, to send all persons soliciting aid on the street to the agency, and to call the attention of the management to any cases requiring aid or relief, which might come to their knowledge. The benefits of this system were at once made apparent—our citizens were no longer importuned for alms on the public streets, suitable employment was afforded upon application at the office, to all desirous of obtaining work and earning an honest livelihood. No great parade was made, no public appeals for aid, but through assistance quietly rendered the association pursued the even tenor of its way, bestowing its benefits like the dews which fall from heaven, silently and unostentatiously. The only direct appeal made to the public at large for aid was in the placing contribution boxes at the different polling places at the recent elections, from which source—the voting population having become sensible of the manifold benefits of this organization, and fully assured that their charities would reach the proper objects, which we regret to say is not always the case—quite a handsome sum was realized.

Officers—Robert B. Swain, President; J. W. Stow, Treasurer; I. S. Allen, Secretary; R. B. Swain, R. G. Sneath, J. W. Stow, L. Sachs, Levi Stevens, W. C. Ralston, Dr. D. W. C. Rice, Trustees. The rooms of the association are at 409 Kearny.

LADIES' SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

At a time when no one seemed to care for the sailor in this our great commercial city—his wants and necessities, whether in sickness or in health, all uncared for; no home of comfort provided for him, and only the low haunts of vice and dissipation afforded Jack a resting place as he came in from the deep waters—this society was established by a few ladies whose sympathies had been called forth in behalf of this important class of our fellow men. It dates from March 26th, 1856—the object being “to relieve shipwrecked and destitute seamen, to establish a boarding house where they may find a home and protection against the pernicious influences and injustice to which they are subjected in this port; to supply the destitute with clothing, and to place within their reach the means for moral and intellectual improvement.” It commends itself as truly philanthropic—its basis, *universal benevolence*, irrespective of sect or country. With unabated zeal and untiring efforts the ladies who are engaged in this meritorious work, notwithstanding the heavy rents to which they are subjected, have sustained a comfortable boarding house, and furnished aid to hundreds of sick and destitute sailors, who otherwise must have suffered, inasmuch as the Revenue Laws of our country precluded their admission (under the circumstances) into the Marine Hospital.

Their annual appeal to the Legislature for an appropriation to enable them to purchase a lot and build a Sailors' Home has, as yet, been unheeded.

During the progress of the Mechanics' Institute exhibition in 1865, the enterprising managers of the society conducted a New England Kitchen at the Pavilion, the results of which have materially assisted them in carrying into effect their very praiseworthy object—to erect a Home in this city that will succor many a weary “Son of the Ocean,” and one that