

tions, aided in some instances by Municipal or State appropriations ; a few also having, in part, permanent endowments to depend upon. In their character and aims, these institutions are both protective, educational and eleemosynary ; some being subject to a purely secular, while others are governed by an administration partly or wholly religious. It is but just to observe, however, that the latter are apt to be controlled by a broad and catholic spirit, the usual asperities of sectarianism being here toned down and softened by the cosmopolitan character of our population. Almost every leading nationality and order has in this city its hospital or asylum ; many of the religious sects also having their own schools, cemeteries and benevolent societies. As yet, not much has been accomplished towards securing an education for the indigent, or for the reclamation of the unfortunate and erring ; though a first-class Industrial School has been provided for youth requiring the care and restraints of an institution of that kind ; while a comfortable and well-regulated Home has been furnished for the Inebriate.

Foremost among the great philanthropies of San Francisco, being untrammelled by considerations of creed, color or nativity, stands The Ladies' Protection and Relief Society, one of the earliest founded, and most efficient of all her public charities. The field of its labors is broad and diversified ; its aid being extended to all worthy applicants, due care being taken to discriminate between the meritorious and the undeserving. The patrons and managers of this society belonging to a class naturally of warm and active sympathies are apt to seek out and assist many, who though really needy, are restrained by a sense of delicacy from applying to others for gratuitous aid, but who, for this very reason most require it. In the cautious and economical application of its means, its prudent management and truly catholic spirit, the patrons of this institution have ample guaranties that their bounty will be wisely and effectively distributed. In the San Francisco Benevolent Association, the Young Men's Christian Association and the Ladies' Seaman's Friend Society, the charitable of all nationalities and sects can also find safe and capable almoners for disposing of all contributions committed to their charge.

The British Benevolent Society, the German General Benevolent Society, the French Benevolent Society, each fill a wide field of usefulness in its appropriate sphere, their operations being confined to the natives of the countries they severally represent.

The Scotch, Welsh and Irish, as subdivisions of British subjects, have each their society for the protection and relief of the sick and indigent of their own race ; the Russians, Scandinavians, French, Italians, Portuguese, Slavonians, Swiss, Mexicans, Colored People and the Chinese also having each a society or association dedicated to the performance of similar offices ; the whole, in connection with the various other benevolent and protective institutions

of the city, such as the several Orphan Asylums, Woman's Hospitals, Magdalen Asylum, Lying-In and Foundling Hospital, Prison Association, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, etc., constituting a far-reaching and efficient system of charities highly creditable to the enterprise and humanity of its inhabitants.

The following annual appropriations to the Benevolent Societies of this city were made by the Legislature of this State at its session 1867-8 : Orphan Asylum, (Protestant) \$9,000 ; Orphan Asylum, (Catholic) \$7,000 ; Foundling Home, (Catholic) \$2,250 ; Ladies' Protection and Relief Society, \$9,500 ; Magdalen Asylum, (Catholic) \$2,000 ; Prison Commission, \$1,000.

For complete list of the various societies, Religious, Benevolent, etc., see page 746.

#### YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

This association, founded in 1853, has for its object the moral, mental and social improvement of young men. It has at its elegant building on Sutter Street, a fine reading-room, library, gymnasium, lecture-room, etc. It is also the design of the association to provide, so far as possible, employment, a place of social comfort and resort, and a local point of pleasant attraction for young men arriving here, without other acquaintance than those made here. The library contains about 2,000 volumes of well-selected and valuable works, embracing all branches of literature ; and the reading-room is supplied with the best newspapers and leading periodicals of the country.

The regular meetings of the association are held on the third Monday evening of each month, when the usual business is transacted and, when there is not a pressure of business, literary exercises, debates, etc., are held.

The building of the association is on the north side of Sutter, between Kearny and Dupont Streets ; is built of brick with a massive and ornate stone front ; and is one hundred and twenty feet deep by fifty-four and a half feet wide. The basement and ground floors are occupied by stores, the second floor by the library, reading-room, ladies' rooms, chess-room, ante-rooms, and a hall for lectures, etc., which has a capacity for seating seven hundred and fifty persons. Beneath the lecture-room is a gymnasium ; and in the third story are committee rooms, hall for meetings of the association, and apartments for offices, etc., for rent. The edifice is well arranged with every convenience for comfort and for the purposes for which it was designed.

At the date of the last Annual Report, (August, 1868) there had been 1,441 members admitted into the association. Since its organization and during the year just preceding, one hundred and fifty had been admitted.

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 open, every day in the year, from eight A.M. to ten P.M. The library is open daily, Sunday excepted, from three to ten P.M.