

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.

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 four 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.

The number of persons assisted since its organization is as follows: From April, 1865 to April, 1866, seven thousand six hundred and thirty-two; April, 1866, to April, 1867, seven thousand four hundred and five; April, 1867, to April, 1868, six thousand seven hundred and eighty-two; April, 1868, to April, 1869, seven thousand one hundred and forty-eight persons—making a total of twenty-eight thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven, at a cost of \$119,308.85, an average of four dollars to each person.

The particular business and objects of the Association are the elevation of the physical and moral condition of the indigent; and so far as is compatible with these objects and the means at control, the relief of their immediate necessities.

Officers.—Robert B. Swain, President; J. W. Stow, Treasurer; I. S. Allen, Secretary. The rooms of the association are at the corner of California and Webb streets.

CALIFORNIA PRISON ASSOCIATION.

This truly philanthropic association was organized in November, 1865. Its objects are the amelioration of the condition of the prisoners either detained for trial or convicted. It is the duty of the agent to visit the prisons daily, before the Police Court opens, to assist the destitute and, by judicious counsel, to lighten the burden which crime has brought upon the prisoner; and when the time of release has arrived, to endeavor to find him employment, or otherwise provide for him. Mr. James Woodworth is the Secretary and Agent.

CALIFORNIA LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE.

This institution, designed to furnish labor for all applicants, irrespective of sex or nationality, was organized in the early part of April, 1867. No fees are exacted from those to whom employment is furnished, the expenses of the Exchange being defrayed by the subscriptions of its members and the contributions of the public. From the commencement of operations, April 27, 1868, until the end of

November, 1869, employment had been supplied to twenty-one thousand nine hundred and forty-seven persons, five thousand five hundred and fifty-one of whom were females. The applicants were made up of all nationalities and callings, the greater portion consisting of farm laborers and mechanics, though situations were secured for persons of every vocation, where practicable. The most of the applicants consisted of recent arrivals, more than one-half having come into the country since the first of January last. The current expenses of the Exchange have thus far averaged about \$760 per month. The revenues of the institution are derived from dues of members, amounting to \$1.00 each per month, and such donations as may be obtained from other sources. The office and headquarters of the Exchange are at 319 Battery Street, where the very efficient Secretary of the establishment, John White, and his assistants, A. Leebandelaar and Mrs. A. L. P. Bidleman, will be found in attendance.

THE CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT UNION.

The California Immigrant Union was founded in Oct., 1869, for the purpose of promoting immigration to this State. The immediate cause of the establishment of this society at this time 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. The first idea of the Trustees was, that sufficient revenue could be obtained from our large landholders, in the form of voluntary contributions and commission for services rendered, to support the institution. Before the Immigrant Union was organized, Mr. A. D. Bell had planned out another scheme of immigration, the chief features of which were, that the work was to be undertaken by a State Board, appointed by the Governor, or by the Governor and Chamber of Commerce jointly, and supported entirely by State funds. Mr. Bell devoted himself to the work so energetically, that in three or four weeks he had all the press of the State discussing immigration, State aid, assisted passages, and kindred subjects. Meantime, the California Immigrant Union was making little progress with the public, whose thoughts were chiefly directed to the necessity of a State Board, and who viewed its relations with landholders with suspicion. At this juncture Mr. Bell was invited to join the Union, and at once commenced the work of popularizing and reforming that society by rescinding its obnoxious by-laws, and assimilating its other features to his own plan, until there is little left of the original scheme of its promoters.

The Union is now directing all its influence to obtain the passage of a bill through the Legislature constituting a State Board of three Commissioners, two to be nominated for appointment by the California Immigrant Union, and one by the State Board of Agriculture. The bill provides for the establishment of a very comprehensive immigration system, embracing chief agencies in Europe and Great Britain, sub-agents in the lesser European countries, agents at the chief ports of embarkation and arrival, the publication of upwards of two million pamphlets, in several European languages, and the division of California into ten districts, each to be placed under the charge of a local agent, whose duty it will be to give personal aid to immigrants in selecting Government lands, etc. The bill asks for an appropriation from the General Fund of \$85,000, and also \$200,000 for the special purpose of giving premiums at the rate of about \$100 a family, to two thousand farmers with families, and each with a net capital of at least \$1,000, as an inducement to select Cali-