

places; and lastly, six pavilions, each two stories high, and each designed to accommodate sixty-four patients (with their nurses), thirty-two on a floor. It is proposed to have eventually twelve pavilions, to be built in pairs opposite each other on either side of the long corridor and parallel to the main buildings; the first pairs on either side of the main buildings being a hundred feet from them, the second pairs a hundred feet from the first, and so on. But the present purpose is to build only six of these pavilions, which will give the hospital a capacity for only three hundred and eighty-four patients, and will either necessitate the retention of the old buildings at North Beach for some patients, or require the erection of new pavilions almost immediately, if overcrowding, so much complained of before, is to be avoided. However, we are not disposed to find fault, as in any event, the new accommodations will be far superior to those we have suffered under so long.

For some years our private hospitals have greatly excelled the public institutions. This was not always so. When built, in 1853, the United States Marine Hospital, on Rincon Point, was one of the finest and most conspicuous structures in the city. It was calculated to contain about eight hundred patients, and must have been planned by one who had the most extravagant anticipations of the growth of San-Francisco, as it has rarely had over a hundred inmates. Though a considerable distance from the settled part of the city, when built, it is now so surrounded by improvements that its site has become desirable for commercial purposes, and strenuous efforts have been made for its removal. Extensive grading of the surrounding property has left the building upon a high embankment and somewhat impaired its foundation, though it is believed that any further injury might be prevented by proper care. The severe earthquake too, of 1868, did much to render the building unsafe, and it was soon afterwards vacated. It is unknown what disposition is to be made of the structure. The patients have been moved from one locality after another, since their exodus and are apparently as far from the "promised land" as ever.

Besides the institutions enumerated above, there are several smaller ones which have been established through the munificence of our citizens, and whose names indicate their special uses; these are the State Woman's Hospital, the San Francisco Woman's Hospital, the Foundling and Lying-in Asylum, etc., etc.

At a rough estimate it may be stated that our city hospitals, public and private, (exclusive of the old Marine Hospital building, now vacant) can accommodate from thirteen hundred to fourteen hundred patients, and that the average number which they actually contain does not vary much from one thousand.

In the Fall of 1865 was created the San Francisco Health office; before this time no mortuary records had been preserved by the city. In 1870, a bill passed the Legislature organizing a city Board of Health, and giving it control of the Health Office and the appointments in all the public charitable institutions of the city and county. From a small beginning, the Health department has grown into a very important branch of the city government. It controls appointments involving an expense to the city of several thousand dollars a month, and has a general oversight of all sanitary affairs. If its operations are conducted with wisdom, foresight and intelligence, this department is calculated to be of great benefit to the city.

Associations---Protective, Literary, Etc.

For a description of the different associations, the reader is referred to the Appendix, pages 869-916, in which will be found the officers and operations of

each during the past year. The progress made by many of these associations reflects credit upon the members thereof, and is worthy of the liberality so generously extended in their support.

Libraries.

It may be set down as a fixed fact that there is no surer indication of the progression and prosperity of a community than the number and condition of its libraries. In this department, San Francisco may safely challenge competition with any city of its age in the range of civilization. The Public Libraries are numerous and respectable, and notwithstanding the activity and energy exhibited by her citizens in every department of life, the statistics of these institutions prove beyond controversy that they are at the same time essentially a reading people. Not physical alone, but mental activity is a prominent characteristic of our population.

In addition to these libraries, several of the hotels of the city are provided with large and well-selected collections of books for the use of guests. That belonging to the What Cheer House numbers about seven thousand volumes of well-selected works, connected with which is an extensive cabinet of specimens in natural history, and a large number of paintings, with a marble bust by Powers, copied by that artist from his statue of California, and a fancy head in marble by Gault, an eminent sculptor.

Want of space prevents a reference in detail to the numerous public libraries in this city, prominent among which may be named the Mercantile Library Association, containing thirty thousand volumes; Odd Fellows', twenty thousand; Mechanics' Institute, nineteen thousand; San Francisco Law Library, six thousand; Young Men's Christian Association, four thousand; California Pioneers, fifteen hundred and fifty; San Francisco Verein, four thousand.

Fire Department.

The new paid Fire Department has been in operation since December 3d, 1867, and has fully met the expectations of those under whose direction its management is placed. On page 804 of this volume will be found the law organizing the Department; and on page 863 is a description in detail, in which will be found a mass of information concerning the different companies, useful to its members and interesting to every citizen.

Local Manufactures.

Manufactures are in themselves a wonderful source of wealth and material prosperity to any community in which they are wisely fostered; but when supplemented by a lavish abundance of raw material possessing the qualities of cheapness and excellence, and are prosecuted in a country whose climate renders every day in the year available for active operations, they assume a position of transcendent importance. These are the more salient points of advantage pertaining to manufactures in California, although in many localities outside of San Francisco they have the additional aid of copious, felicitously distributed water power, and good lumber supplies. In the metropolis, where steam is exclusively the motive power, greater difficulties have presented themselves by reason of the cost for fuel; the value of land as sites for suitable buildings, high rents and high rates of interest. Severe as have been the trials of our entire metropolitan manufacturers, they have been surmounted with an energy and perseverance, which more than any other one thing demonstrates the unyielding pluck and nerve of our people. Nearly all the great manufacturing centers of the globe owe their success to the abundance of cheap fuel, cheap iron and cheap money at their command. Of this fact, England is the most striking example. Dependent upon