

pressed and bury the dead, have been the objects of the benevolent societies formed. The good deeds accomplished and the constant care and watchfulness exercised, have given to San Francisco a world-wide reputation which is richly deserved. Aside from the organized societies, the popular benevolence is proven by the large sums often given for various objects at the call of charity or sympathy. Millions of dollars have been sent abroad when the good heart thought it was required to alleviate distress, either among our own people or those of foreign lands, and never is relief called in vain for any individual case of destitution found in our midst. Fortunately, cases of destitution are rare, and the provisions made by the law and by social organizations prevent any necessity for such distress as drives to importunate beggary.

The large sums sent with such a willing hand to aid the sick and wounded of the Union armies during the war of the rebellion, and which constituted such a noble support, will always be referred to, in this connection, with just pride. A similar exhibition of benevolence and patriotic sympathy was manifested on the part of the German and French citizens during the late war in Europe, each party having sent to their suffering countrymen nearly a quarter of a million dollars to aid the wounded of the battle field, assist the widows and orphans and restore prosperity as far as it lay in their power. More recently, over one hundred and fifty thousand dollars were collected to relieve the sufferings occasioned by the disastrous conflagration in Chicago.

This unequalled munificence of our citizens has been also manifested in their generous support of the many organizations for social and charitable purposes. There are now one hundred such organizations in the city; and many of these are divided into lodges, groves, stamms, vereins, councils, posts, etc., making a total of two hundred and fifty, some having upwards of a thousand members. These are of every class of reputable orders, and include those of every nationality that make up our population. From their number and strength it would appear as though nearly all the people of San Francisco were members of one or other of these orders. Their wealth is shown in the possession of asylums, halls, hospitals and schools, and the fine appearance members make on days of public celebration.

As their name implies, the general object of the societies is benevolence, the assistance of unfortunate members, or their wives and children, when in sickness, burying them when dead, or, if of foreign birth, aiding their return to their native land. But by no means do all limit their charities to their members. Several of these noble organizations are controlled by ladies whose care is for the orphan, the sick and needy of all classes, and for the reclamation of the degraded of their own sex. Five asylums, generous homes for the tender orphans, are under their control, and the excellent condition of the charge is evidence of the care bestowed. As early as 1851, the gentle Sisters of Charity, as over devoting their lives to the holy cause of doing good, founded the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum on Market Street, and continued it, with the addition of schools and further extensions, until within a few months, when they removed to South San Francisco, where they had erected a large and commodious edifice, suitable for the accommodation of eight hundred children. The Protestant Orphan Asylum was organized by prominent ladies of this city in 1851. In 1854, they erected a fine building of stone, to which additions have since been made, the whole at an expense of \$60,000, on the corner of Laguna and Haight streets. At this asylum are two hundred and forty children, unfortunate in their orphanage, but most fortunate in having such a noble home and such parental care as the benevolent ladies have prepared for them. Nearly two years since, our Hebrew citizens organized the Pacific Hebrew Orphan Asylum, and have adopted measures for the speedy erection of a building that will meet the wants of that portion of our population.

But the ladies' charity does not end here. The San Francisco Female Hospital; the Lying-in and Foundling Asylum; the Magdalen Asylum; the St. Mary's Ladies' Society, and numerous others, attest the scope of their ministering care. The kind attention and the liberal expenditure by the ladies of San Francisco, without distinction of nationality, race or re-

ligion, are most honorable and praiseworthy, and every citizen of San Francisco is justly proud of their untiring exertions.

The broad field of labor of the San Francisco Benevolent Association has been well filled, the members exercising a generous guardianship over the distress and wants of the city. Neither membership in other societies, nor race or condition, forbid their action, but their compassion, like the cloak of charity, covers all. The Young Men's Christian Association occupies a noble position among the benevolent societies of San Francisco. Possessing a fine hall, with library, gymnasium, baths, etc., it is well enabled to extend the hand of charity to all, to guide the erring, and to give pleasure and instruction to its members and protégés.

The benevolent societies, composed of people of foreign birth, for the object of aiding their fellow-countrymen, are numerous and efficient. The English, Scotch, Welsh and Irish have their organizations, divided into several classes and divisions, all with a large number of members. The British Benevolent Society exercises a supervision over the wants of the subjects of that kingdom. The Germans, French, Italians, Russians, Portuguese, Mexicans, Greeks, Scandinavians, Slavonians, Hebrews and Chinese maintain organizations for the same purpose, showing a benevolence of the highest character, and most worthily occupying their appropriate fields of usefulness. The German General Benevolent Society is a large and effective organization, having one thousand nine hundred and thirty-two members residing in the city and two hundred and fifty in the interior. This generous society maintains a hospital worthy of its high character, and which would be an honor to any city or state.

The French Benevolent Society is an institution in keeping with the most noble of its class here, where the rank is of the highest grade. This society has one of the finest hospitals of the State. It is a spacious edifice of brick, with pleasant gardens and ornamented grounds surrounding it, making it a most desirable home to the invalid. Other nationalities maintain their hospitals and their homes, thus indicating the care taken of all and the unbounded benevolence of all classes and peoples who have made San Francisco their abiding place.

The secret orders and societies are in great number and of high standing. The orders of Masons, Odd Fellows, Druids, Red Men, etc., are bodies of great wealth and usefulness, and fill an important place in the society of San Francisco. Several of these possess stately edifices, have extensive libraries, maintain banks, publish papers, and in various ways manifest their importance and perform their duties. Added to these are the Immigrant Aid Association, Prison Association, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and numerous others, showing the broad field occupied.

It is difficult to form an estimate of the amount received as contributions and dues and expended by this vast array of benevolent associations. The Orphan Asylums, the Odd Fellow, Masonic, Red Men and Druid organizations, the German, French and Italian societies, etc., each disburse many thousands of dollars annually. But this is not all. The State generously steps in and lends a helping hand. At the last session of the Legislature, \$724,000 were appropriated for such purposes, of which \$430,000 was for the Insane Asylum, \$100,000 for the State Reformatory for Boys or Branch State Prison, \$72,000 for the Asylum for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, \$22,000 for benevolent organizations outside of San Francisco, \$100,100 for those within the city. As the Legislature meets but once in two years it must be recollected that these appropriations are for such period. The following list will show how the portion of San Francisco was divided: Industrial School, \$12,000; Ladies' Protection and Relief Society, \$12,000; San Francisco Woman's Hospital, \$10,000; California State Woman's Hospital, \$7,500; San Francisco Lying-in Asylum, \$7,200; Magdalen Asylum, \$8,000; Protestant Orphan Asylum, \$8,000; Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum, \$8,000; Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum for Boys, \$8,000; Pacific Hebrew Home, \$6,000; Home for the Inebriate, \$4,000; California Prison Commission, \$4,000; Mechanics' Institute, \$3,000; Protestant Episcopal Church Home, \$2,400; St. Luke's Hospital, \$1,000; Woman's Christian Association, \$1,000. In addition to these liberal donations the State also appropriates