

menced from week to week. The sand hills in the Western Addition are rapidly disappearing, and rows of comfortable houses are taking their places, while there is greater activity at the Mission than has been seen there for years before.

Improvement of Streets.

From July 1, 1856, to July 1, 1875, the City of San Francisco and its citizens have expended \$12,754,759.72 for the grading, paving, and sewerage of streets. The total length of sewers constructed is 74.37 miles. Sewers of an aggregate length of three hundred and ninety-two thousand seven hundred and nine feet four inches, were built last year; and the cost of street work for the year was \$603,492.32. The cost of sweeping the streets is \$5,620 per month, or \$67,440 per annum, and the total cost of sweeping and repairs was \$158,927.71, paid from the Street Fund. The cost of tools, work in front of public property, and of repaving accepted streets, was \$129,084.97 additional. The enormous amount of money expended by the city has by no means been used to the best advantage. The plan of sewerage was defective and it was reserved for the present local administration to take proper steps to secure plans (an appropriation of \$10,000 has been authorized for this purpose by the Legislature of the State at its last session) that will meet the present and prospective wants. The mistakes of the past have been followed with most disastrous results, and the costly experience of the last twenty years will doubtless cause a more judicious expenditure of the people's money hereafter. The lighting of streets and repairing of street lamps cost \$273,501, thus making a total expense of \$1,165,006 for the improvement and care of the streets of San Francisco for the last fiscal year.

Public Buildings.

THE NEW MINT stands upon the northwest corner of Mission and Fifth streets, fronting one hundred and sixty and one half feet on the former and two hundred and seventeen and one sixth feet on the latter. The building is two stories high, besides the basement. The parapet walls are fifty-six feet high; the pediment seventy-five, and the two chimneys each one hundred and forty-two feet. The form of the building is a hollow parallelogram, one hundred and two and one half feet by forty-three and three quarters, paved with flagging. The foundation is of concrete, five feet deep, laid in the most substantial manner. The basement walls are of the hardest sun-burned brick, three feet thick, with a face of Rocklin granite one foot thick. The upper walls are also of brick and of the same material, faced with blue-gray sandstone twelve inches thick. The floor girders are wrought-iron beams, twelve inches deep. The floors are arched with brick between the beams; leveled above with concrete, then flagged. The wainscot, door, and window frames, shutters, columns, ornamental work, and the back stairs, are all of iron. The broad, lofty front stairs on the Fifth Street front, are of Rocklin granite. The doors and window sashes, golden mahogany; the counters and furniture of Honduras mahogany; the window glass of French plate; door fittings of brass; the flat-link sash-weight chains are copper, and the roof covered with copper, tinned on both sides. Six solid fluted columns, massive and lofty, give beauty and grandeur to the main entrance on Fifth Street. The style of architecture is the Doric.

A particular description of the location and especial purpose of each room, with the peculiar elaborate machinery contained therein, would fill a volume. Much of the costly machinery is of the most massive description in its proportions and solidity, and finished with the finest possible mathematical nicety. As is not generally known, the San Francisco Mint is no longer a Branch Mint, even in name. Nearly two years since it was erected into the full dignity of an independent establishment. In fact, when one considers the magnitude of the business done within its walls, it would seem that in respect to this, and most important of all particulars, all the other mints in the country might more properly be ranked as branches of this. Its coinage of gold and silver during 1875, up to December 31, was: Gold—one million two hundred and thirty thousand double eagles, worth \$24,600,000; nine thousand half eagles, worth \$45,000; eleven thousand six hundred quarter eagles, worth \$29,000; total, \$24,674,000. Silver—four million four hundred and eighty-seven thousand trade dollars, worth \$4,487,000; three million two hundred thousand half dollars, worth \$1,600,000; six hundred and eighty thousand quarter dollars, worth \$170,000; one million one hundred and fifty-five thousand twenty cent pieces, worth \$231,000; nine million and seventy thousand dimes, worth \$907,000; total, \$7,395,000; thus making the total coinage for the year, \$32,069,000. The total amount coined since the opening of a mint in 1854, is: Gold, \$390,427,200; Silver, \$19,175,400. The coinage for the quarter ending March 31, 1876, amounts to \$9,007,500, an increase over the corresponding quarter of 1875 of \$2,489,500.

During the year 1875, the refining department has been placed in operation. Its capacity is about one million ounces per month, an amount frequently insufficient to meet the demands for its services. Charges for refining: three hundred parts gold and less, 2½ cents; three hundred and a half parts gold to six hundred thousand, 4 cents; six hundred and a half parts gold to seven hundred and fifty thousand, 6 cents; seven hundred and fifty and a half parts gold and over, 8 cents. When necessary, outside establishments are employed to assist the U. S. Mint in its refining department.

THE UNITED STATES APPRAISER'S BUILDING.—Upon the west half of the block bounded

Smithsonian Medical and Hygienic Institute, 635 Cal., B. J. SMITH, M.D., Proprtr.