

museum, and store room for periodicals. The library room extends the full width of the front of the building, and is fifty-four feet deep, with a height of twenty feet in the clear. A tasteful, light, airy gallery, for the convenience of the librarian, is erected on two sides of the room. The basement contains a lecture room, fifty-eight feet by seventy-four and twenty-four high; supper room, ladies' and gentlemen's dressing rooms, waiting rooms, etc. The whole of the first story front is of iron, as also are all the window dressings, coins, strings, and pilasters of the rest of the front. The interior finish is of kiln-dried, white cedar, varnished; the doors, stair finish, and book cases, of black walnut. In addition to the library is a large list of magazines and periodicals, comprising one hundred and sixteen magazines, twenty-three illustrated papers, about the same number of foreign papers, some eighty-two Atlantic and one hundred and thirty-four Pacific papers, besides papers from the Sandwich Islands and Cape of Good Hope. The number of volumes taken from the library during 1875, was eighty thousand one hundred.

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE is a fine, three-story brick building, having a frontage of seventy-five feet on Post Street, south side, between Montgomery and Kearny. The building contains the library, reading, and chess rooms, a lecture hall capable of seating five hundred persons, a smaller hall, and three stores. The library comprises nearly thirty-five thousand volumes, among which are many rare and costly scientific and mechanical works, and this number is now increased by the addition of three thousand and three hundred volumes of the British Patent Reports and Specifications, donated to the Institute. This has increased the library to considerably over thirty-five thousand volumes. The Institute is also one of the official depositories of the Patent Office Reports of the Department at Washington. The Industrial Fairs of this society constitute a prominent and attractive feature of the instructive entertainments of the city. During the past few years they have been held annually, and with such successful results that it is probable they will hereafter yearly delight and instruct the general public. The tenth of these fairs was held last year, in the new Mechanics' Pavilion, on Eighth Street, between Market and Mission. The entire building is two hundred feet wide by five hundred and fifty feet long. It has a grand central nave one hundred by four hundred and fifty feet, around which runs a spacious gallery fifty feet wide. It is a remarkably substantial, well-built, wooden structure, conveniently arranged and admirably adapted to the purpose for which it is designed. Cost, \$110,000. The Eleventh Industrial Fair will open on the eighth day of August, 1876, and there is no doubt it will prove a greater success than any which have preceded.

THE ODD FELLOWS' LIBRARY occupies a commodious and excellently-arranged hall, at No. 325 Montgomery Street. The library contains over twenty-nine thousand volumes, in the various departments of literature, science, and art, and includes one of the most extensive collection of works on the early history of the Pacific Coast, as well as one of the most complete and valuable cabinets in the State. Organized, December 30, 1854.

SAN FRANCISCO LAW LIBRARY.—In 1865, a society was formed for the purpose of organizing and maintaining a Law Library, and its success is demonstrated by the fact that it now has some fifteen thousand volumes of standard legal, biographical, historical, and miscellaneous works upon its shelves. The library derives its support from a monthly levy upon its members of \$2.50; it also derives a revenue of \$1 from every case tried before the District Courts of the city.

THE MILITARY LIBRARY was organized in January, 1873, for the purpose of acquiring, preserving, and conducting a public library composed chiefly of books and periodicals of a military character. This institution derives its support from the sales of shares at \$5 each. Members may use as many books at a time as they hold shares. There are no dues, but the trustees have power to call for \$5 additional upon each share whenever they deem it necessary.

LEAGUE NATIONALE LIBRARY was organized in August, 1871, under the auspices of the League Nationale Francais. The library contains over five thousand volumes, contributed by members and their friends. Any person, acceptable to the Board of Trustees, can have access to the reading-room by paying a monthly fee of \$1.50.

THE SAN FRANCISCO VEREIN have a well selected German library of fifteen thousand volumes, at their elegant rooms opened during the last year, and furnished and decorated at a cost of about \$75,000. The Academy of Sciences, the Young Men's Christian Association, the California Pioneers, and many literary clubs and associations, also have reading rooms and libraries.

Associations—Benevolent and Protective.

The operations of the different Associations, Benevolent, Protective, etc., are fully detailed in the Appendix, pages 1082–1109. During the past year several important charities have been established to assist those already in existence. The unequalled munificence of our citizens in their generous support of the many organizations of a benevolent character in our midst, as well as their prompt and characteristic responses to the many appeals for assistance from abroad, have given them a reputation that any community may well be proud of.

Private Charities.

The liberality of the people of San Francisco is well shown by the number and character of the many benevolent institutions they sustain. The cosmopolitan character of our population