

and although extensions and additions have from time to time been made, these in no wise have been proportioned to the constantly growing bulk of the mails. A great relief of the main office has been effected by the establishment of branch offices or stations in various parts of the city. These are growing in favor, and as the multiplication of facilities is accompanied by a corresponding increase in the lines of business affected by them, it is probable that the capacities of these branches may be increased as well as additional ones established according to the requirements of this fast growing city. The stations are open from eight o'clock A. M. to eight o'clock P. M., and are of great convenience to persons who cannot attend to their postal affairs in the day time. The free delivery by carriers, which virtually brings the Post office to every one's house, had its beginning in this city in November, 1869, when it was introduced by Gen. Coey, who then, as now, occupied the position as postmaster. The number of carriers at that time was seventeen. Since then the service has so expanded, that the force now numbers forty-five. Two hundred and fifty street letter-boxes are conveniently distributed throughout the city, and are gradually growing into the confidence of those for whose benefit they were intended. The boxes are usually attached to street lamp-posts, and are uniformly painted green. They are fastened with the best possible lock, and bear a printed card indicating the time or times the contents are collected, which in every case is at least once per day. The following statistics will give some idea of the business transacted by the office for the year ending December 31, 1877: Mail letters delivered, one million three hundred and forty-four thousand seven hundred and thirty-five; drop letters delivered, one million eight hundred and seven thousand one hundred and sixty; mail postal cards delivered, two hundred and seventy-nine thousand nine hundred and eighty-four; city postal cards delivered, nine hundred and seven thousand seven hundred and sixty; papers delivered, one million five hundred and eighty-one thousand and thirty-three; mail letters collected, four million seven hundred and twenty-five thousand one hundred and forty; drop letters collected, one million thirty-six thousand five hundred; postal cards collected, seven hundred and twelve thousand; papers collected, eight hundred and fifty-six thousand; receipts for local postage, \$54,357. The daily average of the number of pieces (letters, postal cards, newspapers, and packages of merchandise) originating in this office was thirty-eight thousand nine hundred and two, weighing four thousand four hundred and twenty-nine pounds. A comparison of these statistics with those of the offices in other large cities indicate that the office at San Francisco ranks fourth, or possibly third, in point of importance, of those in the United States. This position is due not only to what may be called the local business transacted here, but also to the fact that this is the point of distribution for a great portion of the European open and closed mails in transit to Asia, Australia, etc. Ocean steamers for Japan and China depart twice a month; for Australia and Islands in Oceania once in each month; to the Hawaiian Islands, British America, Alaska, Mexico, West Coast of Central and South America, more or less frequent. During the year 1877, the weight of mails sent to Japan, China, and the East Indies was thirty-three thousand three hundred and sixty-five pounds. The weight of mails received from those countries during the same period was twenty-seven thousand one hundred and eighty-five pounds. The weight of mails sent to Australia, New Zealand, etc., etc., was fifty-nine thousand and fifty-two pounds. The weight of mails received from those places was sixteen thousand two hundred and ninety-eight pounds. The through mail from Great Britain to Australia, was two hundred and forty thousand pounds. The through mail from Australia to Great Britain was one hundred and eighty-nine thousand pounds. During the year above mentioned, sixty-five thousand one hundred and forty-five registered letters were sent, and seventy-four thousand two hundred and ninety-eight were received at this office. During the year 1877 the number of money orders issued from the main office was twenty-seven thousand five hundred and thirty-five, amounting to \$676,153.05; from Station A, seven hundred and fifty-six, amounting to \$16,648.87; from Station B, three thousand six hundred and twenty-three, amounting to \$77,526.41; from Station C, six hundred and nine, amounting to \$9,836.26. Money orders were paid as follows: Main office, thirty-one thousand four hundred and twenty-four, amounting to \$823,707.01; from Station A, thirty-eight, amounting to \$861.74; Station B, eighty-four, amounting to \$1,814.99; from Station C, eight, amounting to \$180.

The Post Office is located at the corner of Washington and Battery streets. The branch offices are situated as follows: Station A at 1305 Polk Street, and embraces the tract west of Taylor and north of Geary to Cemetery Avenue. Station B at the southwest corner of Seventh and Market, it embraces the tract south of Market from Third to Thirteenth; that west of Stockton and south of Geary to Cemetery Avenue, the Potrero, and South San Francisco. Station C at the northeast corner of Twentieth and Mission streets; it includes all the territory from Thirteenth to Twenty-sixth street, and that from the Potrero to Church Street. General James Coey is Postmaster, Mr. William C. Dougherty is his first Assistant Postmaster. They are ably supported by a staff—exclusive of letter-carriers—of fifty-four persons, ten of that number being ladies.

THE UNITED STATES MARINE HOSPITAL is situated at Mountain Lake, on the Presidio Reservation, near the junction of California Street. The nearest point to the hospital now reached by the street cars, is Cemetery Avenue. The hospital, with its improvements, was built at a cost of \$80,000. It consists of three long, two-story, wooden buildings, which are