

REPORT OF CASUAL POOR COMMITTEE.

To the Board of the House of Industry:

The Report of your Committee last year dealt only with part of the year; the months of January, February, and March, so that hardly any comparison can be made between the results last year and this year. This is the first time that there is a report for the whole year. For the year ending 31st March, 1890, the total number of men "Casuals" was 1,481; of this number 530 were in the Lodge only one night, and 977 from one to three nights, leaving 504 who had been in the Wayfarer's Lodge more than 3 nights. The number of nights that this number of 504 was in the Lodge ranged from 3 nights to 198 nights; 14 were in the Lodge at least 100 nights; 6 were more than 120 nights, and one 198 nights. Besides the above 1,481 men Casuals, there were admitted to the Wayfarer's Lodge 128 women.

To counteract the desire of the tramps to remain in the Wayfarer's Lodge longer than necessary, your Committee at the beginning of last winter recommended a resolution, which was adopted by the Board, allowing the Committee to exact from each tramp an increasing amount of wood-cutting at the end of each week.

Your Committee made an advantageous arrangement with the Elias Rogers Company for supplying wood for the wood-yard, but owing to the unusual mildness of the past winter, and the wood-cutting power of the tramps being greater than the Elias Rogers Company anticipated, your Committee is not in a position to state what the effect of the above resolution would be, provided there was a sufficient quantity of wood to apply fully the labour test under the added new condition. But it is manifest that there is a small residuum of the tramps requiring more attention than was given in either 1889 or 1890.

Taking the four months, December, January, February, and March, *i.e.*, 121 nights, the average number of Casuals, male and female, who were lodged each night was 75. The accommodation at the disposal of your Committee will afford shelter for from 150 to 200 each night.