

bodied man unless willing to do a certain amount of work, the daily number of applicants fell off at once from 160 to 49, and Mr. Gurteen adds that in every city in which the test has been applied it has been eminently successful. In Philadelphia, when an able-bodied mendicant after an offer of such a ticket refuses to send to the office for relief, the police are called upon to arrest him.

As evidences of the assistance given to the public and to the existing charities, it is reported that in Buffalo, for example, street begging is effectually done away with. In another American city the assistance given towards repressing imposture is officially stated at a decrease of 58 per cent. in the number of vagrants and 73 per cent. in the number of undeserving poor.

Even on the low ground—but one not to be forgotten—of a pecuniary saving, very complimentary figures could be given. In London in ten years the cost of maintaining the poor has been reduced 30 per cent., and in some of the American cities to more than double that proportion.

These associated charities advise the public to give no money to any applicant, but to send the applicant to their central office, where his case will be considered and attended to. If he can work and if he refuse to work, he gets nothing; and it requires no comment to shew that private charity is almost always unable to detect this unwillingness. The money given to such a person is worse than thrown away. It is an encouragement to pauperism. It is not an agreeable task for the charitably disposed to encounter these applicants and to be never absolutely certain that their offering is not squandered on the most worthless of characters. The organized charities say, We can manage these things better, and what is a trespass on your time is our employment and duty.

These charitable organizations say, in the second place: visit the poor, give your information, your assistance, to find out and detect fraud, and to ascertain who are really deserving of relief, but give your money to the existing charities. The lame and the cripple, not to speak of the man with the seven helpless children, and no fire in the house for days, are frequently found to have amassed great sums of money by begging. And this art is so profitable that it seems to be worth acquiring. An advertisement is said to have appeared in a London paper, where the art of begging is taught exhaustively in six lessons by a person who has founded a college for that purpose.