

one kindly sent to this Council by the President of the Particular Council of New York, and contains a number of *questions on the works of the Conference* which the Presidents are requested to answer. Several have replied to the questions, and have given the details of the works carried on by the Conferences, which are very interesting and edifying, but the greater number have either omitted to answer altogether, or have given but few particulars. A circular letter addressed to the Councils and Conferences of France by the President-General a short time ago bears particularly on this point. He presses upon their attention the necessity of preparing and sending in complete and carefully made up reports containing the statistics of the Conference, and asks "what would become of a merchant if he neglected to make out his balance sheet every year, and to ascertain the profit and loss made by his business? In the same way it may be asserted that an association which does not try to make a serious examination of conscience, at least once a year, is exposing itself to the danger of decay. The statistics ought to be discussed in Conference, and all the questions put by the Council ought to be answered, as each has its special object, and in order to have the report full and complete the greater part of one of the meetings of the month of January in each year should be set apart for the work."

From the replies received with the last report, it appears that the principal and fundamental work of the Society—*visiting the poor in their homes*—has been fairly well carried out by the conferences; but a few evidently neglect this important duty altogether or perform it very carelessly. They seem to imagine that, as the members know the circumstances of the families applying for relief, it is not necessary to visit them regularly. This is a mistake that Presidents should not allow to prevail.

With regard to the observance of the Festivals of the Society, the replies received indicate that the isolated Conferences—those outside the cities where there are Particular Councils—do not keep the feasts very regularly. The same remark applies to the article of the Rule which requires a spiritual reading at the meetings after the opening prayer. This, it is recommended, should be short, interesting and practical and each member should be called upon to perform the duty in turn. It is also