

with needlework (many of whom are widows, and have young families to support), and the visitation of all who apply for assistance; as by this means industry is encouraged, deception in many cases detected, and a spirit of self-reliance fostered.

Experience shows that the best way of relieving the poor is to assist them to help themselves.

No pecuniary aid is given except in cases of sickness; but small sums are loaned the women when they require it, and it is pleasing to state that they have, with one or two exceptions, repaid the money by their own work.

Your Committee fondly cherish the hope that this useful department of the Institution will meet with encouragement, so that many more of the deserving poor may be aided.

Since last June, nearly all the girls who have been admitted were quite destitute. Consequently, no board has been paid for them. It was therefore feared that the Institution would get into debt. These fears, however, have been groundless, as the Treasurer's account will show.

It may not be out of place here to remark, that, three months ago, the funds were very low. A quarter's rent and the previous month's bills were then due. The question was asked, "What shall be done?"

At the next monthly meeting, three ladies on the Committee, Miss Lucy Barrett, Mrs. T. M. Thomson, and Mrs. Johnson, unexpectedly brought in collections, which they had made among their friends, sufficient to pay all that was owing, and, during the past two months, other collections have been made to meet all current expenses; thus truly verifying the promise "The Lord will provide."

May not therefore your Committee be encouraged to go on in faith, feeling assured that expectations, based on the promises of Almighty God, shall not be disappointed.

A few of the girls have gone to service in respectable families, during the past year. One dear little girl, five years of age, who had no relations but an aged grandfather, has found a happy home in a pious family. The lady, having no children of her own, has adopted her.