

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VISITATION AND OUTDOOR RELIEF.

The Chairman of this Committee, Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, with his well-known interest in the work of this House, rendered effective service up to the 1st of March, when failing health from over-work compelled him to seek rest and change of climate.

The number of families relieved this year, since April last, has been 2,033, as compared with 1,459 for the corresponding period of 1889-90, and 1,280 in 1888-89. The actual number of persons receiving assistance from this Institution during the year, including the 1,364 Casuals reaches the total of 9,453, about one-twentieth of the entire population of this city. This great increase of distress may be attributed largely to the general depression of trade, the labour agitations during the year, lack of corporation employment during the winter, the unusual severity of the season, and the epidemic of last year, which left some in broken health, and consumed the previous savings of many industrious households.

The work of visitation throughout the forty-four districts has been more thoroughly and conscientiously performed than perhaps during any previous year. This institution, indeed the cause of the poor and friendless, is under lasting obligation to those fifty gentlemen who have freely given their time and attention to this most essential and often most distressing work, many of them visiting during the season more than 100 families, in some cases two and three times.

During the month of February a conference of visitors was held for the purpose of discussing the visitation work, comparing notes, and receiving suggestions in reference to it. The judgment was unanimous that visitation of the poor could be more efficiently done by the voluntary service now rendered, than through any paid agency.

An additional depot for the distribution of bread has been established in the western division, and the work of distribution has been attended to by Mr. James Simpson in the east, Mr. G. Wiley in the west, and Mr. E. O. Smith, 467 Dundas street, for the extreme west. 50,316 loaves costing \$4,486.49 have been