

ployment in consequence of the difficulty of procuring coarse work for them.

The sum of \$1941.39 has been paid in wages during the year.

The following table shows the various religious denominations to which the applicants belong —

Church of England.....	66
Presbyterian.....	29
Roman Catholic.....	28
French Protestants.....	13
Methodists.....	12
Congregationalist.....	4
Baptist.....	4
American Church.....	3
Unitarian.....	1
German Church.....	1
Religion not ascertained.....	39

—200

The donation of \$100 from the District Savings Bank is acknowledged with thanks. The Committee beg to acknowledge gratefully the donations of 20 lbs. of tea from Messrs. Sinclair, Jack & Co., and 50 lbs. of sugar from Mr. Cowie which they distributed amongst the needy working women at Christmas. Bread, meat, tea and sugar were also sent by an unknown friend for the same purpose. They would also gratefully acknowledge the following donations for the poor working women:—

Blankets from Mrs. Bigelow; Clothing from Mrs. Adams; Hoods from Miss Smith. Donation of stationery and account books for the use of the rooms have been received from Mrs. Hill, Mr. Grafton, Mr. Graham and Dawson Bros., and are acknowledged with thanks. Also patches from Mrs. Claxton and useful remnants and patches from Messrs. Stephens & Co.

The Annual Bazaar was held on the 20th and 21st of March, and the result was very satisfactory. The proceeds were about \$1100. The Committee return grateful thanks to their friends who contributed to the Bazaar and to the ladies who assisted at the various tables. They also acknowledge with thanks the kindness of Colonel Fane and the officers of the 25th Regt. K.O.B., of Colonel Elrington and the officers of the P.C.O. Rifle Brigade, of Colonel Pakenham and the officers of the 30th Regt. for their kindness in granting the gratuitous services of the bands of their respective regiments. The Committee beg to return most grateful thanks to the Editors of the various papers for gratuitous notices at various times.

The usual Tea Meeting to the sewing women and their families was held on the 22nd of March, and contributions of bread, meat, tea and sugar are here gratefully acknowledged. The sum of \$28.25 was collected by Mrs. Wenham to defray the expenses of the evening. Books were distributed by Mr. Claxton to all present, and the addresses of the kind friends who came forward on the occasion were much appreciated by the women.

The Committee have greatly added to their numbers, in consequence of additional duties

in connexion with the Refuge, having been undertaken by them. On this subject the Committee report as follows:—Employment has been given in sewing and knitting to as many of the inmates as were capable of doing work of that nature, and who were not otherwise employed in the House either in cleaning, assisting in the kitchen, washing, or attending to their children. The school is under the management of a paid teacher, and is in excellent order. A donation of school books from Mr. Lovell is gratefully acknowledged.

Seeing the urgent necessity for clothing to assist in maintaining the cleanliness of the House, the sum of \$190.25 was collected by the ladies at the suggestion of Mrs. Champion Brown, who herself collected \$100. Part of this money was spent in clothes and pillow cases, the rest is in the hands of the treasurer of the fund for future use. A sub-Committee was requested to meet to prepare some additional rules for the more efficient conducting of the House. These rules were submitted and approved by the Board of Management.

In conclusion, the Committee earnestly hope that the suggestions they have so frequently urged on the Board will shortly be carried out. The most essential of these are: To establish a hospital for the sick, who at present sleep in the same room with the other inmates. To provide a day room for the inmates, so that the bedrooms may be properly ventilated and used as dormitories only, and to give the boys a separate room. There is sufficient accommodation in the House to allow of all these suggestions being carried into effect by making a few alterations.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRIET RIMMER,
Secretary.

REPORT OF THE VISITING SURGEON.

The Surgeon in attendance on the inmates of the "Protestant House of Refuge," feels deeply gratified in being able to state that during the past six months, various improvements of a most important character have been made in the House. Among such improvements the Surgeon would call special attention to the system of classification and separation, of the more *respectable* and sensitive from the *rude* and *noisy*, as having an important moral influence.

Also to the better means of *ventilation* and *heating*, which have been adopted and enforced. Hot and cold water have been abundantly supplied to all parts of the building, and a proper apparatus for a regular and systematic mode of bathing has been supplied. The double wooden bedsteads are *condemned*, and in their place *single* iron bedsteads are to be introduced.

The "Night Refuge" is confined to a separate part of the building, and its inmates are not allowed to come into contact with the permanent residents.

The *permanent inmates* are, to some extent, now supplied with clean clothing, instead of