

Commencing with a very limited number of subscribers, and consequently with a very slender income, it has gradually assumed such an importance, and attained to such a degree of prosperity, as place it upon a level with some of the most influential charities of the metropolis; the funded property of the Society, amounting now to nearly forty-five thousand pounds, enables the Directors to distribute with the aid of annual subscriptions, above fifteen hundred pounds per annum among the widows and orphans of its deceased members.

The degree of relief afforded by the Society to its pensioners has, of course, varied with its means; the present allowance is £35 a year to a widow, provided her income from other sources does not exceed £50 per annum; to each of her children under fourteen years of age, £12 yearly is allowed—and, under some circumstances, an apprentice fee is usually granted upon application.

Abstract of the Receipts and Expenditure for the Year 1839.

RECEIPTS.

Annual Subscriptions, Arrears, Fines, &c.	-	-	402	3	0
Donations and Benefactions	-	-	365	6	0
Dividends	-	-	1,049	18	5
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			£1,817	7	5

EXPENDITURE.

To Widows and Orphans	-	-	1,394	5	0
Salaries, Commissions, and other expences	-	-	112	6	3
Bills	-	-	52	0	10
Mr. Sturt, Stockbroker for Powers of Attorney, &c.			18	17	6
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			£1,577	9	7
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Funded this year	-	-	£341	3	9

There are now receiving Half-yearly assistance from the

Funds, Widows,	-	-	-	-	31
Orphans under fourteen years of age	-	-	-	-	15
Adult Children of deceased Members, who are incapable,	-	-	-	-	5
Aged and distressed Member	-	-	-	-	1
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Total	-	-	-	-	52

This Society was instituted in the year 1788. The capital Stock is now £34,213 2s. 8d. in 3 per cent. consol annuities, and £210 in new 3½ per cents., in the names of the Trustees; and £7,355 18s. 5d. in the names of other Trustees, for the purpose of accumulation. The

* Taken from the preface of the Society's Report, published in 1840.—Ed.M.M.G.