

MASONIC BENEVOLENCE IN ENGLAND.

During the year which has just closed, Masonic benevolence produced an amount for the three English-Masonic Charitable Institutions combined far surpassing that of any previous twelvemonth and exceeding the largest annual sum hitherto collected for them by £21,855.

The Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, the oldest of the three institutions, which celebrated the completion of its first hundred years of existence on June 7th, shows a total receipt of £49,259 4s. 4d.; the youngest of the institutions, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons, a sum of £21,361 15s. 1d.; and the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, which was ninety years old last year, the amount of £12,293 2s. 5d., a less sum than either of these institutions has received in any of the previous seven years.

The largest amounts in former years obtained by these institutions were £25,958 4s. 4d. in 1887 by the Benevolent Institution, and £25,100 17s. 1d. in 1883 by the Boys' School, but both these institutions were most seriously affected in 1888 by the special effort made to celebrate the centenary of the Girls' School last year by an extraordinary subscription, which realized, under the chairmanship of the Prince of Wales, at the festival, at the Albert Hall, £51,500. The Boys' School and the Benevolent Institution will not have such an adverse circumstance to contend against this year, and the totals of the three will probably resume their normal amounts.

Apart from these institutions, another body which is doing a great work in relieving distress is the Board of Benevolence, which meets once a month, and dispenses the Fund of Benevolence, to which every English Freemason, by the very fact of his becoming a Mason and subscribing to a lodge, contributes. During the year

1888 the Board of Benevolence made grants to cases of distress to the amount of £11,468.

HOW THE MONEY GOES.

Addressing the Jordan Lodge, Torquay, Devon, England, W. Bro. John Chapman, P. M. said:—The Masonic Charities of the past year have received an increased amount of support, greater than that which has marked the history of any preceding year. £75,000 having been collected for "the three great Charities," as they are called. But while we are gratified in chronicling the large sums that have been obtained at the annual festivals of our great Institutions during the past year, yet we do not wish you to imagine that these sums represent the total of our Masonic Benevolence, under the English Constitution; for in addition to these three Institutions we must not forget that there are the noble efforts of the Board of Benevolence, which this past year distributed £11,448 to some 439 needy cases. Then, again, look at the amount that is being annually collected by our Provincial Charity Funds, Institutions that are growing up into vast proportions all over England for the relief of local cases that do not participate in the benefits of the Central Charities, such as our "Devon Masonic Educational Fund," "The Fortescue Fund," and to all such efforts add these, the local Lodge Charities, such as the Jordan Lodge, No. 1402, Benevolent Fund (of which there are many among the 2000 that range under the banner of our Grand Lodge); and if we add to all these efforts the private benefactions of members of our Sublime Order, such as those who have so liberally and spontaneously contributed to the relief of the widow of a deceased brother, who has just passed away from our midst; if the actual figures from all these sources could be gathered, they would almost startle even those who are the most active in Masonic Benevolence. When, therefore, we hear it