

From J. M. Leaman Esq
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V. W. C. A.

DIET DISPENSARY.

(Recommended by the Medical Faculty.)

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

APRIL, 1886.

In reviewing the work of the Diet Dispensary, we find abundant cause for gratitude and encouragement. The past year has been one of prosperity and increased usefulness, pleasantly marked by the absence of the embarrassments which so often hamper those engaged in charitable enterprises. Perfect harmony in the committee, the earnestness and faithfulness of those engaged to carry out the work, and the liberal support of generous friends, have combined to distinguish the seventh, as the best year of our existence.

It is to be regretted, however, that even yet, comparatively few understand the object and scope of this work. Without taking time to give a full account of the origin and growth of the Diet Dispensary, we may say it is designed to provide the sick with suitable nourishment carefully prepared. It is principally for the poor, who can obtain any necessary article of food *free* by simply presenting an order from any physician, clergyman, or other responsible person, known to some member of the Committee, but to those who are able and willing to pay a moderate price is charged.

Under the care of our faithful manager, the work has steadily increased in efficiency. Great pains have been taken, in cases of long illness and great feebleness, to provide a variety of dishes with which to tempt the capricious appetite. Milk has been given more generally, and is greatly appreciated. Fresh eggs, cooked chicken, beef-steak, chops, light puddings and fruit have also been given occasionally to gratify the craving of one and another of the sufferers who appeal to us for aid—sometimes too late to restore strength, but often in time to gratify the requests of the dying.

For the year our orders number 3166. Of these 1893 were free, 191 half, and 1082 full price. To fill these orders we have dispensed 2287 pints of beef-tea, 201 pints chicken broth, 353 pints wine jelly, 263 pints calfs-foot jelly, 498 pints of milk, besides large quantities of meat-cakes, soup, Irish moss, blanc mange,