

At the Department Encampment in 1884 a committee consisting of Post Department Commanders H. Hilliard, E. D. Swain, J. W. Burst and T. G. Lawler, was appointed to obtain statistics as to the number of dependent soldiers in the State; to memorialize the Legislature on the necessity of at once providing a Home for the comfort of these veterans, and to prepare a bill for the consideration of the Legislature covering the objects to be accomplished, in order that a Home could be provided for a limited number of veterans at the earliest date.

The committee secured from the Legislature an appropriation of \$200,000 for the construction of the buildings, and enough cottages were built to accommodate all veterans who were in the charitable institutions of the State before the severe cold weather of the late fall came upon them.

The Legislature of 1886 and 1887 made an appropriation for buildings and maintenance and the total appropriations up to 1889 were \$605,500. The number of inmates at that date was 562 and cottages have since been constructed, increasing the accommodations to 750 men.

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The growth of Young Men's Christian Association work in Illinois is a most noteworthy feature of the history of this great State. The first Association organized was at Chicago, in June, 1858, largely under the leadership of Mr. D. L. Moody, who devoted his energies to this line of work for some years. The great work which he has accomplished and is accomplishing is due in no small measure to the training and development received while in the Young Men's Christian Association of Chicago. He has spoken thus of the Association: "It has, under God, done more in developing me for christian work than any other agency."

The growth during the next twenty years was steady, extending into many of the important cities of the State. In 1869 and 1870 a closer supervision of the Association was taken up,