

REPORT.

THE Board of Management of the Halifax Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, submit their sixth Annual Report, with the conviction that they may continue to claim for the system upon which they seek to administer relief the confidence and support which it has hitherto received.

The liberality evinced towards this Association, the Board believe to be largely due to general approbation of the fundamental rules by which its operations are understood to be conducted.

Two of the most prominent and important of these are the following:—

"To give relief only after a personal investigation of each case by visitation and inquiry."

"To relieve no one, except through the visitor of the section in which the applicant lives."

The former of these regulations imposes upon the visitor a duty which is not only often difficult and disagreeable in itself, but one to which he is liable to be summoned at a time the most inconvenient.

When it is remembered that those who have, from year to year, come forward cheerfully to engage in this work, are not in many instances men of leisure, it need not awaken surprise if occasionally an exact observance of the rule has seemed impracticable.

The Central Board, however, feel that they are under obligation to contributors to this association not to permit any portion of its funds to be drawn, except in strict accordance with its rules. It is therefore with them an established principle that visitation and inquiry into the condition and characters of those applying for assistance must precede the giving of relief. Many illustrations, drawn from the experience of those engaged in visitation, might be offered to show how deceptive are the stories with which the benevolent are approached, and how necessary it is, in order to the detection of imposture, that