

which had been put on foot to increase the efficiency of the several corps prove abortive, and in spite of all the efforts that were put forth, they were rapidly becoming the refuge of old men and boys who were physically below the required standard. Coupled with this we had the humiliation on more than one occasion, of seeing comrades in the hour of sickness and distress, depending for sustenance on the charity of churches or of kind neighbors; and when the hand of death was laid upon them, we accompanied their mortal remains to the cemetery there to see them deposited in a pauper's grave.

Such circumstances as these have had a marked effect upon the efficiency of the force, as men whom it was desirable to retain in the service, but whose natural love for the profession was not strong enough to allow them to put up with those little annoyances, soon became disgusted and left; while the material which presented itself to fill the vacancies thus occurring, was often of such a nature, as to defy the best efforts of officers and non-commissioned officers to make soldiers out of it. This material being of an itinerant character, it was necessary in order to keep up to the required strength, to fill the ranks with recruits as the period for each annual drill came round. Hence it will be seen, that not more than fifty per cent. of the men enrolled could be counted upon at any one time as drilled men, qualified to perform the duties required of them.

In order, then, to obviate these difficulties, the promoters of this Association came to the conclusion, that an Association founded upon the principles of benevolence and charity, could lay some claim to public patronage, draw men of respectability and intelligence into the ranks, and by offering them proper inducements (such as are held forth by this Association, viz :—Medical attendance and Medicine free, and a weekly allowance of money during sickness), we might be enabled to retain their services, and thus keep the force up to the highest state of efficiency. It was also a fact worthy of notice, that there did not seem to exist in the force of this city the slightest spark of that *esprit de corps*, which is so necessary for the success of all such organizations. To cultivate and foster that spirit is one of the chief objects of this Association. That we have been successful so far in this, is evidenced by the large attendance at our meetings and the fraternal feeling which pervades our membership and by the fact, that from our formation down to the present time, no-