

could purchase. A detailed account of its character and value would not be of interest to general readers, but it may be said, in one word, that it stands in the front rank of the great manuscripts of antiquity by which the original text of our Bible is determined.

### CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

THERE are in the Province of Ontario four classes of Charitable Institutions receiving aid from the Provincial Government, viz: Hospitals, Houses of Refuge, Orphan Asylums, and Magdalen Asylums. The Government aid is apportioned on a sound principle—"according to their works;" that is, a certain rate is granted for each day that every patient is accommodated. The Hospitals receive thirty cents a day for each patient; the Houses of Refuge, seven cents; and the other two classes, two cents each. Two-thirds of this rate is fixed, and constitutes the first instalment, while the remaining one third is made contingent on the Institution receiving at least four times as much from other sources, the difference being deducted in case of failure. By these means inducements are offered not only for the performance of work, but for the collection of funds. Regarding each of these classes of charitable institutions, we select from Mr. Inspector Langmuir's report, a few facts which may be of general interest.

The Hospitals receiving Government aid now number twelve, viz: the General Hospital, Toronto; the City Hospital, Hamilton; the General Hospital, Kingston; the Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston; the General Protestant Hospital, Ottawa; the General Roman Catholic Hospital, Ottawa; the General Hospital, London; the General and Marine Hospital, St. Catharines; the General Hospital, Guelph; the St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph; the Eye and Ear Infirmary, and the Burnside Lying-in Hospital, Toronto. At one time or another during the year ending 30th September, 1877, there were 4,077 patients under treatment in these twelve Hospitals—an increase of 184 over the preceding year. The aggregate time during which they were under treatment (not reckoning the time of incurables, for whom only House of Refuge rates are allowed) amounted to 146,720 days. These figures form the basis for calculating the amount of the Government grant in aid of Hospitals for the year, 1878, which, after making the requisite deductions on the principle already explained, will amount to \$43,055.29. By adding to the number of patients already mentioned 6,254 out-door patients we find that 10,331 persons received direct benefit from the Hospitals of the province during the year. It would appear from the report that in some few instances, notably in the case of the Roman Catholic General Hospital, Ottawa, dishonest attempts were made to increase the Government grant by harboring patients whose ailments were not of such a nature as to require Hospital treatment. Of those under treatment in the Institution just mentioned when visited by the Inspector on September 23rd, "One," he says "had a sore finger, the eyes of another were slightly affected, several were troubled with general debility, and a few more had rheumatic affections." To all appearance a few of the patients, whatever may have been their condition when first admitted, no longer

required treatment when I saw them. A large proportion were sitting up and talking with friends who had come in to see them." The visiting physicians appointed by Government must be aroused to greater vigilance. Apart from the question whether any Government aid at all should be extended to denominational institutions, it is, to say the least of it, very unpleasant to have the public purse exposed to the depredations of gentry who think that the end justifies the means.

The eleven Houses of Refuge in receipt of Government aid are: the House of Industry, Toronto; the House of Providence, Toronto; the House of Industry, Kingston; the House of Refuge, Hamilton; the House of Providence, Kingston; the House of Providence, Guelph; the Home for Incurables, Toronto; the Home for the Aged and Friendless, London; the St. Patrick's Asylum, Ottawa; the Home for Aged Women, Hamilton; and the St. Charles Hospital, Ottawa. In these establishments 1,313 persons were lodged and fed during the whole or some part of the year; and the temporary wants of no less than 11,251 persons were relieved by the out-door operations conducted in connection with them. Considering that the greater number of the inmates of these institutions are aged and infirm, and that all of them are weak, the death-rate of five per cent. during the year is exceedingly low, and indicates more than ordinary care. The Government grant for 1878 is \$12,781.20.

The list of Orphan Asylums is too long to be given in full. There are twenty of them, of which six are situated in Toronto, four in Hamilton, three in Kingston, three in Ottawa, two in London, one in St. Catharines, and one at St. Agatha, in the County of Waterloo. It is impossible to estimate the suffering, the sin, and the sorrow that these charities have been the means of averting by affording lodging, food, clothing, and education to 2,504 orphaned, neglected, and destitute children. To no class of charitable institutions does Mr. Langmuir attach greater importance than to this. We quote from his report: "After the closest observation of their working and general results, extending over a period of ten years, I repeat what I said about them when urging the passage of the Charity Aid Act; that of all the establishments receiving Government aid, perhaps none are more entitled to the hearty sympathy and liberal support of the public than Orphan Asylums. But for the temporary home thus provided for these 2,504 desolate little children, it cannot be doubted that at least fifty per cent. of the number would be permanently added to the criminal and vicious classes of the community, and as such, would in a few years become inmates of our penal and correctional establishments, and a constant burden upon the Province." The amount of the Government allowance to Orphan Asylums for 1878 is \$10,150.29.

Three institutions reported under the name of Magdalen Asylums receive assistance from the Government, viz: the Magdalen Asylum, Toronto; the Home for the Friendless, Hamilton; and the Magdalen Asylum, Ottawa. Their object is the reclamation of fallen women. The aggregate number of inmates in these three establishments at the beginning of the official year was 130; there were 174

admitted during the year; 151 were discharged and two died; so that at the close of the year the total number of persons of this class under accommodation was 151. The Government allowance for the present year is \$1,073.91. Those unfortunates who can be induced to enter these refuges are taught that they can maintain themselves by honorable pursuits, trained to habits of industry, and provided with respectable situations where they may lead useful and decent lives. In the carrying out of this programme failure is frequent, but success is more frequent; and even were the successful cases but a tithe of the whole, we should still say that the Magdalen Asylums are doing a good work.

### SARNIA W. F. M. SOCIETY.

The first annual meeting of the Sarnia Auxiliary of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, was held on the 6th February, 1878, in the parlor of the Young Men's Christian Association, the Rev. John Thompson in the chair. There was a good attendance and great interest was manifested. After the usual opening services, a letter was read from Miss Roger of Indore, and the latest telegram regarding Mr. McKay in Formosa.

The secretary then read the annual report as follows:

"The first meeting of this society was held on the 3rd January, 1877, there have been regular monthly meetings, with an average attendance of fourteen members. We usually meet in the pleasant parlor of the Young Men's Christian Association which we find central and convenient; while the Association was moving to the present rooms, we met at the residence of Mrs. J. King, for whose hospitality we now return thanks. We are greatly indebted to the secretary of the central society for keeping us constantly supplied with the latest manuscript letters from our missionaries abroad, and we have received one letter addressed to ourselves from Miss Roger of Indore. At each meeting some of our number read selections from other sources of missionary intelligence, one describing a Hindu home, another giving an account of an individual convert, a visit to a Mahometan lady, a Syrian School, or the work of the Medical Mission, thus warming our hearts, and deepening our interest in the spread of the Redeemer's kingdom. Our society has thirty-two members, and we would record our thankfulness that all have been preserved in life to the beginning of another year; we rejoice that something has been done in our Master's service, and regret that we could not do more for Him who gave his life for us. Leaving the past, may we press forward with new zeal and determination, bringing all our best gifts to the feet of Jesus. We deeply regret the departure, to another field of labor, of Mrs. Craise, one of our vice-presidents. Our prayers and best wishes are offered that she may be as useful and as happy, in her adopted home, as she has proved in her native Canada.—CHRISTINA C. CAMERON, Secy.

The treasurer reported that the receipts of the society have been seventy-one dollars and sixty-two cents (\$71.62), of which \$12.70 were required for necessary expenses, leaving a balance of \$58.92 to be forwarded to the central society.

The chairman made a few appropriate remarks, after which the following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Mrs. Vidal; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Scott; Secretary, Miss Cameron; Treasurer, Mrs. King; Committee, Mrs. Biebmier, Mrs. D. Mackenzie, Mrs. Symington, Mrs. G. S. MacLean, Mrs. C. Mackenzie, Mrs. W. B. Clark, Mrs. Nisbet, Miss MacGregor.

### CONVERSION OF ROMISH PRIESTS.

The treasurer of the Board of French Evangelization acknowledges with thanks the following additional contributions in aid of the fund for the maintenance of the ex-priests who have recently left the Church of Rome, and placed themselves under the care of the board:—Miss Dawes, Lachine, \$3; Rev. R. S. Patterson, N. Bedeque, \$5; Ross, Bros., Leith, \$15; J. Ross, Watford, \$5; Two boys, Quebec, \$1; A. C. Leslie, Montreal, \$5; Rev. G. Cheyne, M.A., Taplestown, \$4; N. Farlinger, Dundee, \$5; Rev. D. H. McLennan, Alexandria, \$4; A. D. F., \$4; Mrs. Boyd, Montreal, \$4; Mrs. Arch. MacMaster, Killeen, \$20.

Additional contributions are urgently required. These should be forwarded to Rev. R. H. Warden, 210 St. James Street, Montreal, by whom they will be duly acknowledged.

TIME AGAIN EXTENDED, and "Year Book" for 1878 still offered as a premium. See first page.