

diminution of expenses. . . § . And what is of equal if not greater value, the utmost harmony prevails throughout our Societies generally. After seeking in our ordinary official way for information from our Branch Societies as to their state, and *their wishes* and views, we have unmingled pleasure in presenting this statement."—p. 56, *Recorder* for May, 1872. It will also be seen in the *Recorder* of November, 1870, that the Board was "induced to make trial of this plan from the views entertained by some of the Branches on the subject, from the declared sentiments of many of the warm friends and supporters of the Society, and from the communications of the ex-agents." Besides, there have been not a few expressing satisfaction with the action of the Board in this matter, and some urging further steps in the same direction. Moreover, it is to be observed that the change has been followed by better returns at less expense. In six years, under the permanent agency, the field of the Auxiliary yielded an annual average of \$1,454, at a cost of \$674. In the seven years under the provisional system, it has yielded an average of \$1,959, at a cost of \$614.

The Committee states that it "has not been suitably consulted, either as to the number of Agents required," nor "as to the allotment of their respective fields." The Board regrets any alleged oversight in this matter, but they would respectfully remind the Committee that in 1875, when the division of the field was changed, suggestions from the Committee were sought and waited for, that all the wishes of the Committee were carried out, and that consequently eight agents instead of six were appointed for the London field. In 1876 there were only a few slight changes in the division of the field which had been suggested by the Agents in their reports: and three, at least, of the Agents were appointed on the recommendation of the Secretary of the Auxiliary. The Committee also intimates that it has not been consulted as to the times of visitation, &c. The Board would remind the Committee that the Agents have been, and are, instructed to consult the officers of the Auxiliary on these matters; and also to report and make all their returns to the London Committee, and if they have failed to do so, the omission has not before been reported to this Board.

The Committee "think it unkind and unjust that public censure should be inflicted on them for alleged mismanagement and want of success." If the Committee refer to a passage in the last Annual Report of the Society, the Board would ask the Committee to read it carefully, and they will see that instead of being censured they are praised, and that the present unsatisfactory state of affairs is charged exactly to the same cause, which they agree with us in regarding as the root of the evil,—“that the present relations between the Society and its Auxiliary are radically wrong.” There is happily no difference of opinion between the Committee and the Board as to the necessity for a change. The only difference in the judgment of the two bodies is as to what that change should be. The London Committee desire to have their Society become an Auxiliary in fact as well as in name; the Board of Directors, on the other hand, believe that such a change would necessitate the continuance of machinery which they think unnecessary, and must certainly increase expense. Experience tends to show that it would not produce increased efficiency. Nor are there reasonable grounds for expecting that such an experiment would