

ANNUAL REPORT.

A review of the last year offers but scanty material for the basis of a report.

The Managers have pleasure in stating that the calls upon their resources during the season now closed were comparatively light, when contrasted with those of the four years immediately preceding. As the Managers do not profess to be political economists, they venture no opinion upon the cause of this satisfactory result, but are content to ascribe it to the generally improved condition of the country.

There are always cases of chronic poverty, which no amount of relief will ever satisfy—as some one says, “he who finds the beggar’s staff once get warm in his hand, never does any good, but a great amount of evil.” The Managers have the good or bad fortune to be purveyors to a number of such cases: in fact it may be said that a large proportion of the present recipients belong to a class which may justly be considered the natural consequence of improvidence, or intemperance. When one individual disappears from the ranks, another soon steps forward to claim the vacant place, and thus the full regimental strength is constantly maintained.

Although the present season opened rather inauspiciously, it is gratifying to note that applications for relief have, thus far, been much below the usual average.

The Associated City Charities are doing a good work, as is evident from the marked abatement of the tramp nuisance. The object of this Association is to provide work for those