

going. The number of quarts distributed to the poor is 15,156, namely: 3,003 to night refuge people and casuals, and 12,153 to outside poor. The Soup Kitchen is found to be a ready and efficient way of relieving the poor at a trifling cost.

PERMANENT INMATES.

The average number of permanent inmates sustained in the Refuge during the past summer is 80—the average number during the winter has increased to about 115. The number on the 12th April was 108, namely: males 49, females 34; boys 19, girls 6. There has been during the year a much larger proportion of boys than girls. Quite a number of these inmates are aged or invalids and hardly fit for any sort of work.

LABOUR.

A considerable quantity of stones were brought on the grounds of the Institution during the winter, and the inmates were set to break them on the 2nd February. The breaking has been done principally by the Night Refuge men and casual poor, the aged and infirm in the house being found unable to stand the work. It was found that the men were anxious to work all the time at the stone-breaking, it allowed to remain for the winter in the Institution, getting its shelter and food. An arrangement was therefore made by which so many hour's labour was given each day as an equivalent, and this plan has been productive of the best results, both to the Institution and to these homeless men themselves, for your Committee find it is of little or no use, so far as reformation is concerned, to take these men in at night and turn them again upon the street each morning to fall in the way of temptation. Since the Spring set in, the Superintendent has obtained situations for several of these men whose behaviour has been good during the winter.

BATHS.

Two large and excellent baths are now in full daily operation. Two of the permanent inmates are detailed to attend to the bathing, and to see that the bath-rooms are kept scrupulously clean. All now enjoy the luxury of a bath, even to the oldest. One of these baths, with the fitting up, is the gift of the Misses Gale.

CLOTHING.

Under the assiduous superintendence of the ladies, a considerable quantity of clothing has been provided for the house. The ladies have, with commendable zeal, raised a special fund from friends of the Institution for the purpose of clothing. The expense of clothing so many is a serious consideration, and although much yet remains to be done still the work progresses favourably.

BEDSTEADS.

Your Committee having found from experience that the old wooden bedsteads formerly used in the Campeau Street Refuge were not well fitted for the purpose of the Institution, have ordered fifty new single iron bedsteads, according to the pattern used in the General

Hospital, from Messrs. Wm Rodden & Co., at \$5 each.

TEACHER, &C.

A competent teacher for the children, and who has been well recommended to your Committee, has been engaged for a year from 1st March last, at a salary of £36 per annum. The school-room has been furnished with new desks and forms. There are at present 25 children in the Refuge, about 20 of whom are of age fit to attend school.

SURGEON'S REPORT.

The report of Dr. Tew, the visiting surgeon, will be laid before the Board. The general health of the inmates has been good during the past year, only two deaths having occurred. The house has all along enjoyed a remarkable immunity from disease. Your Committee are under much obligation to Dr. Tew for the valuable daily services which he renders gratuitously to the Institution, and are gratified with the kindness and patience which he has shown in attending upon the poor. Any cases requiring more than ordinary care, he has removed at once to the Montreal General Hospital; an Institution which, in this way, gives no small aid to the Refuge, and which your Committee have endeavoured to reciprocate by receiving poor persons into the Refuge when discharged from the hospital.

UNITED BOARD OF OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

In October of last year your Committee made proposals to the representatives of the national societies, and the Young Men's Christian Association for the formation of a United Board for the general relief of the out-door Protestant poor, the relief to be centralized at the House of Refuge, as being the most eligible place for a work of this kind, and aid to be got for this effort through voluntary contributions, and by means of appeals through the press. It was found, on meetings being held to consider the subject, that questions of a delicate nature were involved, regarding the constitution and word of the national societies. It was not, therefore, until the end of November that the "United Board" was finally formed. The work of relieving the out-door poor commenced on 23rd December, and was continued regularly and with much success throughout the winter. The press lent a willing hand in this good work, all the appeals and other notices of the Board being issued gratuitously by them. As a full report of the Out-door Board has recently been published, your Committee need not here enter upon the work in detail, but would only desire to express their gratitude to the Giver of all Good for the large amount of aid they were enabled to extend to many a suffering family throughout the winter.

Your Committee have met regularly in the House as usual every Monday morning, and everything tending to promote the general prosperity of the Institution has had their careful consideration. Several useful suggestions from the Ladies' Committee will shortly be carried into effect. When the remainder of the new iron bedsteads, in process of construction, are