

Illinois Societies.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC—YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN
ASSOCIATION—WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION
—CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR—EPWORTH LEAGUE.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.



THE first Grand Army Post in the United States was organized at Decatur, in this State, April 6, 1866, with Gen. Isaac C. Pugh as Commander. The Department of Illinois was organized July 12, 1866, at Springfield, and Gen. John W. Palmer was elected the first Department Commander. The history of the Grand Army, in the State which gave it birth, is one of struggle and misfortune. Although there were reported to be about 330 Posts in the State in 1869, two years later the number had decreased to less than twenty-five, and a little later the number was narrowed down to only one—Nevins Post, now Number 1, at Rockford. Since that time the Department has steadily gained in numbers and influence, and in 1892 was represented at the National Encampment by 620 Posts. The membership, December 31, 1891, was 32,984, and the deaths reported for the year were 477.

The Women's Relief Corps is reported in excellent condition and in hearty sympathy with the Grand Army, in whose charitable labors they are co-workers. The Sons and Daughters of Veterans are also faithfully carrying forward the ministry of love inaugurated by their honored sires.