

beneficence, into one harmonious and co-operative body, maintaining intercourse and comparison through one central agency, and pledged to united and concurrent efforts for the suppression of the pauper and the rescue of the deserving poor."

It means a common field in which men of all beliefs and men of no belief can work side by side in the cause of humanity. It means an examination into the cases of individual destitution by a personal canvas, and it means a thorough investigation of every applicant, so as to detect and expose imposture, and is, therefore, a comparison and exchange of information in confidence.

This central agency or bureau does not interfere in any way with the workings of the existing charities. It gives no relief except in rare, urgent cases. It excludes no worthy applicant, and it frowns down any attempt at proselytism. It aims to prevent imposture, to reduce vagrancy and pauperism, to relieve the destitute, and to give relief in return for employment. It has its agencies, its branch offices, its paid and volunteer officers, and as efficient a system of registration as possible.

This last—a registration of the names of all in the city in receipt of private or official relief—is not only one of the first things insisted upon, but it will be noticed in comparing the reports for different years that it is considered of very increasing importance. The report from Baltimore (and I quote the latest issued) says that the charity directory has already proved of valuable assistance. In Brooklyn, Boston, Detroit, and many other cities, a map is prepared, the names of applicants collected as far as possible, and a list of those obtaining relief from the circle of charities in the city.

The manner in which this was done in Buffalo is a fair example of what can be done with little expense. "Circulars were sent to all church societies, relief societies, benevolent societies and fraternities, and to all asylums and hospitals, asking for particulars as to their mode of operation, the kind of relief given, &c. Then the books of the Poor-master's office were copied, and shortly after, through the kindness of the Superintendent of Police, blanks were delivered at every house in the city by the police, asking for full particulars of any relief that any citizen was giving at that time to any poor person or pensioner. These forms were collected by the police twenty-four hours after delivery, and out of some 30,000 issued, some 3,000 were returned filled in." "And this," says the