

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE MANAGERS OF
THE ORPHANS' HOME AND FEMALE AID SOCIETY.

In presenting their Fifteenth Annual Report to the members of this Association, the Managers feel deeply sensible that their Report must differ materially from those which have preceded it. Former Reports spoke only of mercies vouchsafed and blessings received. This must tell of bitter chastisement, of grievous sickness, and fearful mortality.

During the preceding fourteen years of its existence, the "Home" had lost only *eight* of its precious charges. In the month of January last, it pleased Almighty God to take to Himself *eighteen* of these poor little orphans. The Managers can only bow with submission to God's all-wise decree. The management was the *same* as in previous years; the same faithful Matron had charge of the Institution; the *same* skilful and unwearied Physician watched most assiduously over the health of the orphans. But, whilst in former years the Institution was very remarkably free from mortality, this year it has been most severely visited. Thus God has been pleased to deal with this Institution, as he often does with private families in a most mysterious way. Early in January whooping cough, measles, and dysentery attacked the children, and at one time no less than fifty-three were ill from one or other of these diseases, and several of them had the two former combined. The Matron, Mrs. Holmes, was most assiduous in her attention to the little sufferers, waiting on them night and day, and doing all in her power to administer to their wants, to save their lives, and console them at the hour of death. The first Directress being ill, and unable to visit the "Home" during the greater part of the time while the illness prevailed, the second Directress left her own family, and with all the tenderness of a fond mother, went from room to room, and from bed to bed, and did all that kindness, devotion and experience could do to save these little ones; but, alas, in vain. A few of the other Managers devoted themselves to the same work and labour of love; as did also the teacher, Miss Scott, who was unwearied in her attention; whilst the Misses Brown and Miss Bovell, ladies not connected with the Institution, kindly spent days at the "Home" nursing these helpless children.