

REPORT.

contribute to the defeat of the objects which this Association has in view. The Board would therefore avail themselves of this opportunity to renew their appeal, as well to every member as to every visitor in connection with the Association, to observe the most rigid adherence to the brief and intelligible rules which have been framed for their guidance. The forms in use should by this time have become familiar, and the little time and trouble which a close attention to them may occasion must surely be amply compensated by the consciousness that a most important and beneficial check upon imposture is thereby administered.

During the past year the Board have somewhat modified the forms of Visitors' Returns, so as to render them as comprehensive and complete as possible, and to afford monthly a clear exhibit of the proceedings of every visitor in his district. These returns, showing the families visited, the articles supplied, and the amounts expended in the several districts, and by the respective visitors, are filed with the secretary and open to the inspection of any member interested in their perusal.

The demand for gratuitous relief has been much diminished by the system organized for providing labor for those who can work, as a test of their willingness to earn their bread by the sweat of their brows

The breaking of stone was continued last winter, and an addition was made to the shed on the Common for this purpose. Forty-one thousand five hundred and two bushels of stone were broken and sold to the city, the account of which will be found in the Treasurer's statement. In addition to thus providing some employment for men seeking relief, the Board felt the necessity for some similar provision in the case of female applicants, and they are pleased to be able to report that early last winter a very efficient committee of ladies was formed, to furnish sewing to such poor women as the visitors of the Association might, after due inquiry, recommend for employment. The result of this branch of the society's operations induces the hope that in the ensuing winter it may be still more beneficially carried on with the advantage of the experience which has now been acquired.

The Board cannot close their present report without alluding to the afflictive loss sustained in the sudden decease of their

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