

In examining into the meetness of the objects that urge a claim upon the charities of this Society, the Committee are not indeed disposed to exercise an unduly severe scrutiny into character, as they would rather relieve many undeserving persons, than let one worthy person suffer through suspicion ; yet they have kept in view, continually, that the purpose of this Society at its formation, and its design, as hitherto carried out in operation, has been to afford relief to the wives of the respectable poor, whose exertions, sufficient though they may be for the ordinary support of their families, are inadequate to the provision of the many little comforts which are, in fact, necessities to those who are in the anxieties and sufferings of their confinement.

In ministering to the wants of those poor women, to whom the Ladies of this Committee are called during this anxious period of suffering, the Committee have, with but few painful exceptions, met with respect and gratitude for what has been bestowed upon them, and faithfulness in the use and in the return of those articles which are only lent them for the time. The Committee mention this, trusting that it will be gratifying to the contributors to their funds to know that their charitable disbursements are so appreciated: yet, if it were not so, would the contrary be a sufficient reason for withholding exertions for the relief of their suffering fellow-creatures, or refusing the pittance necessary to their comfort at such a trying season ? The Committee trust that neither they, nor those to whose charities they appeal, are so insensible