

foundation on which the Society is laid, and I heartily rejoice with you in the prosperous condition the Society's affairs are in, as will be shewn by the various reports which will be submitted to you to-night, and as I may not have the opportunity again, at least for some time, of presiding at your meetings, it might not be out of place for me on this occasion to offer a word or two on the advantages and the great amount of good done by the Society since its formation. The Society was organized on the 8th April, 1867, six years ago, with a comparatively small number of members, which has been increasing gradually, till we have now on the register in the neighbourhood of 280 members of good standing—during which period there has been paid for sick allowances to members, while unable to work, the sum of \$1,222 46. There have been five widows and nine orphans receiving benefits, the former at the rate of \$1.50 per week, and the latter at the rate of 25 cents per week, amounting altogether to \$1,076 07, and for funeral expenses there have been paid \$530.00, and those only whose misfortune it has been to require this aid can best testify to the amount of good which has been accomplished in this way. I have had the opportunity of comparing the dues of this society with those of the best organized societies of this kind in England, and I find that the monthly payment of 45 cents, which secures to the members a sick allowance of \$3.00 per week, is about 10 cents less than the monthly dues of those English societies,