

been permitted to dispense has been considerably greater during the past year than for several previous ones. As many as 52 women have received, during the year, the usual relief in bread, meat, groceries and fuel, and a small supply of clothing for themselves and their infants, in addition to the loan of a Box containing articles of dress for use during the month succeeding their confinement.

The Ladies of this Society are aware that its relief is sometimes extended to the wives of idle and intemperate persons, and that objections have been raised to it as though it were encouraging such men in their evil habits. Yet this Society can hardly believe that any charitably disposed persons would wish the consequences of the husbands' intemperance to be visited upon their wives and families at such a period as this Society contemplates in the relief which it extends; and the Ladies of its Managing Committee gratefully acknowledge that in all cases they meet with respect and gratitude from those whom it is their pleasing office to visit. Even if it could be laid down as a principle consistent with true charity that the families of the careless and vicious should be left to suffer the evils attendant upon their vicious courses, the period of a mother's suffering, in which the lives both of herself and of her infant might be endangered by neglect, would hardly be selected as the time for such an experiment upon a father's or husband's heart. The Society therefore cannot anticipate any diminution of the support which it has so readily received in times past, in consequence of an objection from which no system of charity is exempt, and which should never be urged against one which directs its charitable efforts to such a period as this Society contemplates; but confidently appeals to the kindness and benevolence of the Community in which its operations are conducted for continued support.

The Society have the pleasure of announcing that the Viscountess FALKLAND has kindly consented to become its Patroness, and have great hopes of its increased efficiency in consequence of the influence of Her Ladyship's exalted station in the Community over which she has been called to preside.