

REPORT OF VISITATION OF THE OUTDOOR
POOR FOR 1896-97.

To the Board of the Trustees and Managers of the House of Industry.

GENTLEMEN,—Your Committee beg to submit the following statement of work amongst the needy ones in all parts of our city. It is with more than usual satisfaction that the Committee can speak of the service rendered by the fifty-two efficient and faithful visitors of this House. Some difficulty was experienced in the beginning of the season to find suitable men to fill the places of quite a large number who had retired from the work. Some good men had removed from the city, and could not continue in the work. Some by demands of business were constrained to give up after years of service, and some were removed by the hand of death. With the kind assistance of members of the Board and of ministers of the various churches a sufficient number of men were found willing to take hold, and all vacancies were filled.

Without a single exception very satisfactory work has been done. Can too much importance be placed upon this department in the management of the House of Industry? To have over fifty men—well qualified in heart and by experience, visiting the homes of want and often in deep sorrow—should, it is humbly thought, be a cause of sincere gratitude to every right minded citizen and a guarantee that the funds placed at the disposal of this Institution will be administered in a benevolent spirit and with due care to economy. It is also gratifying to report that the service rendered by those who distributed bread and soup in the different parts of the city has been all that could be desired.

Whilst the amount expended on the outdoor poor is larger this season than last year, reasons can be given for this. In the first place there was no stone of any account in the yard for those receiving aid to break, hence, as the test could not be applied, a very much larger number received assistance than otherwise would have done if the breaking of stone had been a condition. The stone was only supplied towards the end of January. The City Council places the stone in the yard. A