

seeing that their excuse is unfounded; urges public care for the blind, the deformed and the defective; employment for the unemployed; and diffuses sound information on all the varying phases of modern philanthropy.

Such a society is usually composed of the most advanced social workers, and it can never be a popular organization with the masses since it does not aim to give anything away but good advice. For its support it must depend on the liberality of the few, and for those who wish to give a portion of their wealth to public uses, no better or worthier object could be found. The strength and influence of a Charity Organization society is a good indication of social efficiency.

CO-OPERATION ESSENTIAL.

Unless it has the hearty co-operation of all the specialized charities of the city, the Charity Organization Society cannot accomplish the best results. It aims to be the clearing house of all charitable and social effort; maintains a library and information bureau for all the workers and societies; and if it is strong enough should assist any deserving society to secure all the funds necessary for the maintenance of its work.

RECIPIENTS OF CHARITY.

The Charity Organization Society invites all relief-giving agencies to register in its office the names and history particulars of all, who, after receiving charitable aid twice, continue to apply for help. If properly carried out this method would effectually prevent imposition and the fostering of paupers. The accredited agent of any Society or the pastor of any church could apply to this central office for information concerning any particular applicant and ascertain at once how often a man has applied; how often he has been helped and how many different Societies are devoting their attention and money to his needs. Where this system is followed it is surprising how much chicanery and fraud is revealed. Or it may be the records will show that a continued effort to get suitable employment would obviate further charity; or a term in jail stop the brazen effrontery and mendacity of unworthy sots and drunkards.

REGISTRATION OF APPLICANTS.

The registration of these cases has often been opposed by well-intentioned workers and societies. They would rather go on helping blindly all who apply lest one should be wronged or offended. "Let not thy right hand know" etc., is often quoted in this connection. But there need be no undue publicity—registration is only intended for the habitual applicants; and they need not know that they are being reported for investigation. It is simply a reasonable business precaution and applies more generally to the drifting, shiftless class of population that prey on clergymen and guileless optimistic workers, and spend in drink the money obtained as charity. That the humiliation of respectable people who are temporarily embarrassed should be carefully guarded against will be referred to more fully under the heading "friendly visiting."