

CONSTITUTION

AND

BY LAWS

OF THE

SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF

OF THE

Indigent Sick.

BALTIMORE:

JOHN F. WILEY, PRINTER,

S. W. Cor. Baltimore and Calvert Streets.

1869.

TRUSTEES.

Mr. Benjamin Latrobe, Mr. Alexander Carter,
Mr. Charles Baker, Mr. George C. Maund.

TRUSTEES, Deceased.

Mr. Robert Armstrong, Mr. S. T. Whiteford,
Mr. James Brundige, Mr. George Brown.

OFFICERS.

Mrs. E. R. Harney, First Directress,
Mrs. Robert Garrett, Second Directress,
Mrs. Edes, Third Directress,
Mrs. Elizabeth Whiteford, Treasurer,
Miss Lucretia Willett, Assistant Treasurer,
Miss Elizabeth Waesche, Recording Sec'ry.

MANAGERS.

Mrs. Samuel Landstreet, Miss S. Dulaney,
" Charles Hoffman, " Margaret Howard,
" George Rogers, " S Lewis,
" Catharine Cole, " Lizette Amelung,
" Carter, " Mary Niemeyer,
" Hynson, " Julia Latrobe,
" Caroline Hammer, " Mary Oudesluys,
" Dr. Cockey, " Anne Jones.
Miss Caroline Barry,

CONSTITUTION.

At a meeting of a number of females, on Tuesday, the third of February, 1824, for the purpose of forming an ASSOCIATION FOR THE RELIEF OF THE SICK POOR OF THIS CITY, it was agreed that a Society be formed, to be called "*The Society for the Relief of the Indigent Sick,*" of which the following is the Constitution.

ARTICLE I.

The officers of the society shall consist of a Directress, second Directress, third Directress, fourth Directress, Treasurer, Secretary, and Board of Managers, consisting of fifty.

ARTICLE II.

It shall be the duty of the Directress to preside at all meetings of the Society and Managers.

ARTICLE III.

The duties of the Directress, in case of her absence, shall devolve on either of the other Directresses.

ARTICLE IV.

The Secretary shall keep a record of the transactions of the Society, and the reports of the Managers.

ARTICLE V.

The Board of Managers shall hold stated monthly meetings, on the last Wednesday in every month, and shall have power to fill any vacancies that may occur in the Board.

ARTICLE VI.

At all meetings of the Board of Managers, seven shall constitute a quorum for business.

ARTICLE VII.

The Directresses, Treasurer and Secretary shall be managers ex-officio.

ARTICLE VIII.

At each meeting of the Managers, they shall choose from their number a Visiting Committee, and district the same; which shall serve in that capacity until the next stated meeting.

ARTICLE IX.

No object shall be relieved whose case has not come under the inspection of the Visiting Committee.

ARTICLE X.

All objects of charity, coming under the observation of the Visiting Committee, shall be represented at the next stated meeting of the Managers.

ARTICLE XI.

When cases occur which require immediate relief, any two of the Visiting Committee may draw on the Treasurer for such sum as may be requisite.

ARTICLE XII.

The meeting of the society in November, shall be considered the stated yearly meeting.

ARTICLE XIII.

All officers and managers of the society shall be chosen at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE XIV.

At the annual meeting, the Treasurer and Secretary shall exhibit their reports.

ARTICLE XV.

The annual subscription shall not be less than fifty cents, to be paid at the annual meetings for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE XVI.

Any member may withdraw from this Society by a written communication to the first Directress.

ARTICLE XVII.

Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any of the annual meetings of this Society.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

The meetings of the Society shall be held in the Bible House, Fayette Street.

ARTICLE II.

At the appointed hour of meeting, the Directress shall take the chair, and if there be a sufficient number present to form a quorum, the business shall proceed.

ARTICLE III.

When a member has any proposal to make, she shall rise from her chair, and no member shall interrupt her whilst speaking.

ARTICLE IV.

No persons, whose disease or infirmity renders them fit subjects for the Almshouse, shall come under the care of this Society.

ARTICLE V.

No person shall be assisted by this Society, in whose case sickness and extreme poverty are not combined.

ARTICLE VI.

No member shall leave the meeting until it adjourns, without obtaining leave from the Directress.

ARTICLE VII.

Any member absent from a stated meeting, shall send a suitable apology, or be subject to a fine of 25 cents

ARTICLE VIII.

The Board of Managers shall endeavor, as far as in their power, to promote harmony, utility and prosperity of the Society.

ARTICLE IX.

Each member shall recommend the reading of the Scriptures, and hold out every encouragement to virtue and honest exertion.

ARTICLE X.

Each member shall hold herself pledged to observe the foregoing resolutions.

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE **ORIGIN OF THE SOCIETY**

In the fall of 1823, a lady having been appointed by the "Female Bible Society" to distribute Bibles in the southern portion of the city, called on a friend to accompany her; taking with them also a bundle of tracts, they set out on their first mission.

The brickyards at that time extended from Lee Street south to the Spring Gardens, including a district occupied mostly by laborers connected with the yards. They found in their walk few who could read, but many who were sick and suffering the most abject want, living in old stables, damp cellars, in many instances with loose straw on the ground, their only bed, wholly destitute of comforts needed for the sick.

These ladies felt the necessity of immediately procuring relief for these sufferers, and then suggested the idea of forming an association for the relief of the sick poor.

On their return they made known to others this great necessity, and were encouraged to proceed in the furtherance of this object. A notice was sent to the several churches, calling a meeting of ladies in the session room of the church of the late Rev. John M. Duncan, in Fayette Street. Mrs. Montgomery, President of the Female Bible Society, was called to the chair. The object of the meeting having been made known, an association was formed, to be called "The Society for the Relief of the Indigent Sick," on Tuesday, February 3d, 1824. It commenced its operations in lower Sharp Street and found a little world of poverty and sickness in a large building that occupied the site where Wesley

pel now stands. Many may still remember the old castle," where poverty and vice reigned absolute. The Society met semi-monthly, at the dwellings of its managers, to repair cast off garments, sent to them for the comfort of the sick. Many of the then prominent grocers furnished their articles at cost, and cheerfully put them up in small parcels for convenient distribution.

This was the pioneer company—the first to consider the wants and suffering of the sick poor in our city. Its members embraced women who were the professed followers of Christ from every branch of his church. As it increased in numbers it was proposed the meetings be held in some public room. The session room of the First Presbyterian church was tendered, and until within a few months it has held its meetings on the last Wednesday of each month in that place. This band of Christian women have labored steadily and unobtrusively, and as one after another were called to lay down their work and receive their reward above, their places have been filled with others of kindred spirit. The Society has held but *one public meeting* in which to present its claims—and that some twenty years ago.

The dreadful scourge that visited our city in 1832 found this Society ready to visit and relieve, to minister the Bread of Life and the bread that perishes to the sick and dying, and some of them were called to suffer sickness and even death in the discharge of these Christian duties.

In many instances they have been instrumental in leading the poor sufferer to the Lamb of God, who can alone take away sin, and "these shall be as stars in the crown of rejoicing of those who have turned many to righteousness."

The destitute stranger has not been overlooked; they have been relieved and comforted, and assisted to return to their friends.

By the suggestions and efforts of these women

have arisen the noble monuments of Christian charity, that point upward from our favored city—the "Aged Women's Home," the "Protestant Infirmary," the "Home of the Friendless."

This Society can record as fellow laborers the endeared names of a Symington, Brundige, Stewart, Steinbeck, Hussey, Latrobe, Purviance, Tiffany, Watt, DeBartholt, Peachy, Guigar, Gillingham, Clendenan, Henry, Lorkin, West, Taylor, McHenry, Gill, Williams and Harwood, who having left their labors on earth, have, we trust, entered upon their reward in Heaven. Daughters have taken the standard of charity from a dying mother's hand, and are now bearing it aloft in the lanes and alleys of our city.

In 1843 the Legislature granted them an act of incorporation, the late George Brown, Robert Armstrong, James Brundige and S. T. Whiteford, were elected Trustees.

The number of persons assisted annually by this Society average about eight hundred.

The annual receipts of this Society have been seriously diminished and its beneficence relatively impaired, in consequence of the decease of several very liberal donors and the transferring by others of their liberalities to the "Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor;" while we award to that institution vast usefulness in supplying the wants of the poor, yet we feel that none can take the place of an efficient, experienced, Christian woman, in ministering to the necessities of the sick and dying, and it can be truly said that this Society has borne the burden and heat of the day; it commenced its work when but few public charities existed in our city; it is the parent root of many of our present benevolent institutions, and let it no longer suffer for the want of that liberal support which our citizens are able to give, and the suffering sick so constantly need.

We would take this opportunity of adding the editorials of our City papers.

[FROM THE COMMERCIAL.]

Society for the Relief of the Indigent Sick.—Among the noble public charities in this city which should never be permitted to go down or even languish for want of a proper and liberal support, is that one for the “*relief of the indigent sick*,” which, founded more than two score years since, by some earnest Christian women here, has never ceased its blessed ministrations where most needed, and from which have sprung other institutions now amongst the most active and useful in the community. Only three of the ladies who originated it so long ago are living, but these are still engaged in doing all that is possible to make it a blessing to the poor, and as the benevolently disposed may be sure that every thing entrusted to the disposition of the society will be wisely and promptly appropriated, we hope our citizens will see the necessity of bestowing of their means, and besides, do all they can to otherwise encourage so praiseworthy a mission.

The chief officers of the society and active managers are: Mrs. E. Harney, President, or First Directress; Mrs. R. Garrett, Sr., and Mrs. Edes, Second and Third; Mrs. Whiteford, Treasurer, and Mrs. Woesche, Secretary, with whom any can communicate in regard to the wants and aims of the Society, and with whom donations may be left.

[FROM THE AMERICAN.]

Annual Report of the Society for the Relief of Indigent Sick.—The Board of Managers of the Society for the Relief of Indigent Sick have submitted their forty-fourth annual report. During the year just passed its sphere of usefulness has been greatly enlarged. Two hundred and eleven sick were visited and relieved, three were sent to the Almshouse, four to the Church Home and two to the Infirmary. Ten deaths have occurred, one at the advanced age of eighty-three.—Three only of the Board now remain who were present

THE FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Society for the Relief of the Indigent Sick.

The time has arrived when it becomes our duty, as Managers of this Society, to present to its Donors their Annual Report. In so doing we rejoice that our sphere of usefulness has been enlarged, through your liberality, which calls forth our gratitude to the Bountiful Giver of every good gift for inclining your hearts to aid us in relieving the wants of the sick poor of our City. Many a heartfelt benediction has been bestowed on this benevolent Association by those whom it has been instrumental in comforting and relieving. The past year two hundred and eleven sick have been visited and relieved, three have been sent to the Almshouse, four to the Church Home, two to the Infirmary, ten persons have died: some of these have departed in the full assurance of faith in our Adorable Redeemer, one at the advanced age of eighty-three. We again thank you, our kind supporters, for sustaining this Association through the long past, and inform you that three only of our number now remain who were present at its organization, the first, second, and third Directresses. Mrs. Harney, Mrs. Edes, and Mrs. Garrett were present February 3d, 1824. Our Managers are confident that you will continue to sustain this long tried and efficient Institution; that the blessing of our Heavenly Father, and of those who were ready to perish, may rest upon you, is the prayer of this Board.

November 28th, 1868.

at its organization—the first, second and third Directresses—Mrs. Harney, Mrs. Edes and Mrs. Garrett. To those persons who have aided the work of the Society by their generous and liberal donations the thanks of the Board is returned, and the hope expressed that the same sustaining power will be extended in the future.

[FROM THE SUN.]

Annual Report of the Society for the Relief of Indigent Sick.—The board of managers of the Society for the Relief of Indigent Sick have just completed their forty-fourth annual report.—During the year its sphere of usefulness has been greatly enlarged. Two hundred and eleven sick were visited and relieved, three were sent to the almshouse, four to the Church Home and two to the Infirmary. Ten deaths have occurred, one at the advanced age of eighty-three.

[FROM THE GAZETTE.]

The Society for the Relief of the Indigent Sick—An Appeal.—This excellent society was first organized as far back as 1824, and during the forty odd years of its existence has accomplished a vast deal of good in a quiet and unobtrusive way. It has annually assisted hundreds of sick and necessitous persons, administering to their wants as only Christian women can, and supplementing by their labors and their benevolence the charities of the Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor. As the elder association, the Society for the Relief of the Indigent Sick led the way in which others of a kindred nature have since followed. Its special duties have been faithfully performed, but the demands upon it are far in excess of the means at its disposal. Feeling, therefore, the want of additional aid, the Society appeals to the liberality of all who take an interest in promoting an excellent charity, and we venture to hope that this appeal will not pass unheeded.

[FROM THE COMMERCIAL.]

Relief for the Indigent Sick.—We have been requested by the Lady President of the above-named Society

to call the attention of the public to its present needs, and its deserving character as one of the benevolent institutions of the city, a request we comply with, with much pleasure. Founded more than forty years since, and comprising amongst its managers during that period some of the brightest ornaments that have graced society and the church, only four of those who originated it are now left; but their work having fallen upon those imbued with the same philanthropic spirit, the good work has not ceased, whilst, of course, the field of labor has been greatly enlarged, to be shared by other benevolent agencies. The fact that from this noble organization have sprung some of the most deserving charities of the city—the “Aged Women’s Home,” the “Protestant Infirmary,” the “Home of the Friendless,” etc., tell the story of its labors and its influence, and are a sure guarantee—if any was needed—that any thing placed at its disposal by the charitably inclined, will be suitably appropriated.

[FROM THE BALTIMORE AMERICAN.]

Poverty will inevitably be the lot of a portion of humanity, so long as the sun rises and sets. There is no escape from it. ‘The poor always ye have with you.’ It is by Divine appointment, nor is it difficult to see the beneficence hidden under the afflictive dispensation. Our business, therefore, is to make the best of that which we cannot evade. Men, women and children abound in this city who have not ability to earn daily bread—and who will starve, unless help is afforded from some quarter. The excellent City Association acts as the almoner of thousands of contributors. Each year adds to its experience and consequent efficiency, and should also add largely to its receipts. No one need fear that his donations will be wasted if confided to the hands of its officers.

But our present design is to ask public attention to another Association that has for many years been pursuing a quiet course of usefulness and benevolence in this city. It is the Association for the Relief of the Sick Poor. The affairs of this Society are in the hands

two or three dozen benevolent ladies, who have devoted themselves to this good work. They have regularly districted the entire city, and steadfastly ministered to the necessities of all within reach of their means.—Their plan of operations is extremely simple, and on that account extremely efficacious. They seek out the sick, in indigent circumstances, and afford aid to all who apply to them suffering under the double calamity of disease and poverty. They do all in their power to comfort the comfortless—furnishing food, clothing and attendance, seeing for themselves the exact condition of the objects of their bounty, and measuring their gifts by the actual wants of those they visit. For thirty-five years has this Society been pursuing a course of noiseless usefulness—a pathway of sunshine through the gloomiest valleys of earth—crowned with the heartfelt blessings of the children of sorrow and suffering. We do not see how more can be needed to insure the sympathy and support of the benevolent than this plain statement.

There may be reasons for denying the healthy mendicant, when he makes his appeal, but none but a heart of stone can reject the plea of the sick and starving. The Ladies' Society has hitherto depended upon annual subscriptions from such friends as they were able to interest in the cause. Once or twice, in its history, it has had to mourn over an empty treasury, and there has never been a time when its means were equal to its opportunities. Nothing is wanting to make it the most direct and economically administered charity of the age, excepting larger contributions; and it seems to us that nothing but this simple statement of its need can be required to secure the co-operation of all our readers who consider it a privilege to give. No possible motive could influence us to make the appeal save pity for those upon whom the hand of disease has laid a double burden. We have learned incidentally of the efficiency of this Society, and of its present wants, and have made this appeal without the knowledge or consent of the excellent ladies who have charge of its affairs.