

THE CITY.

A Meritorious Institution.

The twenty-sixth annual report of the Midnight Mission and St. Michael's Home (the country branch) shows the efficient work of this most excellent charity. During the past year the old home in Greene Street has been given up. The work is now carried on at 208 W. 46th Street. This house is used for the reception of girls who may apply personally or be taken there. If her behavior is such as to make it probable that she can be benefited, she is sent to St. Michael's. This home is most attractively situated at Mar. maroneck, on a hill overlooking Long Island Sound. Here the girls are taught plain sewing, embroidery, laundry work and such other work as may be deemed advantageous to the individual.

Their family life presents attractions to many of them, often their first experience of a happy home life. Under the devoted, painstaking care of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist, they are encouraged to better lives. That many take advantage of this and are thus restored the reports show. Since the opening of the home in 1887, there have been received one hundred and ninety-two. One hundred and forty one have left, and, of these, fifty-six were reported as doing well when last heard from. Of the remainder, doubtless, some are leading respectable lives, but do not communicate with the Sisters for fear of revealing their past to others. Such facts are certainly most encouraging, and are an answer to those who are prone to assert that the work is a hopeless one. Owing to scanty means, the amount of work is limited.

All interested are invited to visit the houses and to see for themselves what is being accomplished. Contributions are solicited to support, and, if possible, extend this excellent work. The president of the Midnight Mission is Charles R. Henderson, the treasurer Louis Mesier, and the secretary Robert S. Holt. The trustees are: Daniel Huntingdon, Robt. S. Holt, Wm. Alexander Smith, John Davenport, Francis H. Weeks, Dr. Stayvesant F. Norris, Charles R. Henderson, Louis Mesier, Henry Dexter, Charles W. Gould, Charles S. Brown, Edwin A. Stevens, Edward W. Sheldon, Rudolph R. Schrier.

Aguilar Free Library.

The report of the Aguilar Free Library Association for the past two years has just been issued, and the excellent influence that is exerted by these Libraries, not only at its main branch in the Hebrew Institute Building, but as well at the one in Lexington Ave. In his report, the President, Mr. Samuel Greenbaum, says that a gratifying increase of the circulation beyond a point which entitled the Library to an appropriation of \$10,000 from the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, should not lead the friends of the Institution to the conclusion that the Society is not in need of funds. In order to circulate upwards 175,000 volumes per annum, the expenses upon the most economical basis and consistent with efficiency will reach, he says, considerably more than \$10,000 yearly. The Society has taken charge of the Library in the Hebrew Institute Building which will add considerably to its expenses and increase the duties and responsibilities of the Board. It has joined the Educational Alliance which is to undertake the field of work in the Institute Building, which is not covered by the Hebrew Free School Association and the Aguilar Library Society. Under this plan the Alliance will be a Membership Society. The report of the Library Committee, of which Dr. H. M. Leipziger, is Chairman, shows that the circu-

lation from Nov. 1891 to Nov. 1892, was 194,787, an increase of 45,000 over the year before; 99,439 volumes were issued from the East B'way Branch alone. The great needs at our branches, says Dr. Leipziger, are more books and better means in the shape of catalogues to make known to our readers what books are in the Libraries. What is required is a complete catalogue. The Library quarters at the East B'way branch have been rendered attractive by means of pictures and photographs presented by kind friends. These pictures have proven a stimulus on reading on special subjects suggested by them. The Lexington Ave. branch have quarters that are entirely inadequate and there is no room whatever for expansion. It is feared that the circulation will decrease unless a change is made. Books of reference at the Branch require constant additions and the school children frequent the Libraries for getting material to aid them in their studies. A course of Free Lectures to the public, given by the Board of Education has increased the number of readers in this city, and at the different branches of the Library, bulletins are posted up and lists of books in the Library pertaining to the subjects treated, were placed beside them. Those who attended the lectures and wished to pursue the subject further, were thus aided in their object. To bring the Libraries in closer relation to the public, has been the object of the Committee for the past two years, and principals and teachers of the schools in the vicinity recommend the Library to their pupils. The comparative circulation since the opening of the Library shows a gradual increase in the circulation of 81,761 in 1886 to 1887, to 194,787 in 1891 to 1892. The main character of the circulation has been fiction. At the Lexington Ave. Branch in this department shows 81% in East B'way, 51% and in Fifth St. 54%. Next is History which in Fifth St. runs as high as 20%, while in East B'way it is 10% and in Lexington Ave. it is little more than 3%. Literature and travel have each 3% at Lexington Ave.; 2% and 3% respectively in East B'way, and 1% and 6% respectively in Fifth St. Biography represents 2% at Lexington Ave., nearly 4% at East B'way and over 6% at Fifth St. It is surprising to note that Science which is represented by 1 1/2% at Lexington Ave. and a trifle over 1% at Fifth St., has over 3% in East B'way. The number of volumes in the three branches aggregates 18,403, of which 8,105 are in the Lexington Ave. branch, where the circulation last year was 80,870; in East B'way, 8,385 volumes, the circulation of which last year was 99,439 and in Fifth St. 1,913, the circulation of which last year was 14,478. The number of new readers through the year was 5,395 of which 3,412 applications were made at the East Broadway branch. The receipts for the year ending Dec., 1892 were 11,166.68, which included a balance on hand of \$5,000 from the city. The disbursements were 11,166.64, \$1,000 were given through the year for the establishment of the Nina Goldsmith Spiegelberg Memorial Alcove Fund, while there yet remains on hand \$424.37. The Libraries are located at 107 East Broadway, 721 Lexington Avenue and 624 East Fifth street. Its officers are as follows, President, Samuel Greenbaum; 1st Vice President, David Leventritt; 2nd Vice President, Henry M. Leipziger, treasurer, Lee Kohns, Secretary, Harold Nathan, 60 Broadway. Directors: M. W. Benjamin, Henry M. Leipziger, D. Leventritt; Mrs. C. L. Sulzberger, Mrs. Alfred Meyer; W. B. Freidberg; H. Nathan, Mrs. H. Morgenthau, Miss L. Waterman, F. Spiegelberg, S. Greenbaum, L. Kohns, L. N. Hershfield, M. Ash; Committee on Library, Henry M. Leipziger, Chairman; Mrs. C. L. Sulzberger, M. W. Benjamin, H. Nathan, Mark Ash, L. N. Hershfield, F. Spiegelberg. Committee on Ways and Means: Lee Kohns, Chairman; F. Spiegelberg. House Committee. Mrs. C. L. Sulzberger, L. N. Hershfield, F. Spiegelberg.