

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK FOR 1883.

CITY OF LONDON PAROCHIAL CHARITIES.

The area of the city of London is 702 acres; its population was, in 1851, 131,127; in 1861, 114,039; in 1871, 76,236; in 1881, 50,578, and thus appears to be decreasing steadily and rapidly. Within this area there are 109 civil and 61 ecclesiastical parishes. In every one of these parishes there exist charities more or less closely connected with the parish church, or the parish as a whole. The property of these charities, consisting mainly of houses and land in the city and elsewhere, but to some extent also of Consols and other similar investments, is vested in trustees, sometimes in the incumbent and churchwardens, sometimes in private persons. In many instances the same persons are trustees of a number of different charities in the same parish; in other instances there are several sets of trustees in the same parish for its different charities. The total gross income of these parochial charities was, in 1855, £67,000; in 1875-6, £105,000; and in 1879-80, £117,000 per annum, and therefore appears to be increasing steadily and rapidly, just as the population declines. It is now more than £2 6s. for each inhabitant. There can be little doubt that under more energetic management it might soon be raised to £200,000.

A large part, nearly one half, of this income belongs to purposes which may be called ecclesiastical; of the other half a good deal is expended in doles or pensions; some in the apprenticing of boys; some in education, and a very large sum, estimated at £10,000 a year, in the payment of poor rate, an application which is really not for the benefit of the poor.

As the income arises from a great number of small charities, each of which is managed by its own trustees, the expenses of management naturally bear a large proportion to the whole income; probably not far from 10 per cent of the total gross income goes in paying salaries, legal expenses, costs of feasts and refreshments, and other similar charges incidental to the administration of charity property.

The objects to which the charity property was directed by the founders to be applied have, in many cases, failed altogether. In other cases they have become of doubtful utility; in others the funds have so increased as to be out of all proportion to the trifling purposes for which they continue to be employed. In a great many instances they are spent in a way which experience has shown to be positively harmful—the bestowal, usually at the church, of doles of bread, coals, or clothing, a form of distribution which encourages pauperism and mendicancy. The expenditure on the poor rate is, of course, unjustifiable, and has been condemned by the Charity Commissioners.

Some light is thrown on the effect which the charities have had upon the welfare of the poor by the poor law returns, which show that, while in the metropolis generally the proportion of persons receiving outdoor relief to the whole population is 1 in 37, in the City it is 1 in 16; and that, while the average expenditure on outdoor relief is in the metropolis, 1s. 2½d. per head, in the City it is 4s. 4½d.

METROPOLITAN CHARITIES.

The following Table shows the income of the London Charities for the year 1880-1:—

4 Bible Societies	£	206 518	
13 Book and Tract Societies	£	79,750	
56 Home Missions			286,268
11 Home and Foreign Missions		466,651	
23 Foreign Missions		128,537	
		779,656	
6 Church and Chapel Building Funds			1,374,844
23 Charities for the Blind			29,583
8 Charities for Deaf and Dumb		52,894	
7 Charities for Incurables		16,529	
6 Charities for Idiots		33,221	
		53,649	
17 General Hospitals			156,293
8 Consumption Hospitals		269,111	
5 Ophthalmic Hospitals		54,953	
3 Orthopedic Hospitals		9,184	
4 Skin Hospitals		7,475	
18 Hospitals for Women and Children		4,686	
5 Lying-in Hospitals		64,275	
22 Miscellaneous Special Hospitals		7,004	
		85,959	
33 General Dispensaries			502,647
14 Provident Dispensaries		24,948	
2 Institutions for Vaccination		10,192	
5 Institutions for Surgical Appliances		2,650	
37 Convalescent Institutions		11,913	
14 Nursing Institutions		33,513	
		9,995	
163 Pensions and Institutions for the Aged			93,211
98 Institutions for General Relief			422,896
23 Food Institutions, Loan Charities, &c.		339,052	
		8,323	
87 Voluntary Homes			347,375
50 Orphanages, &c.		125,714	
69 Institutions for Reformation and Prevention		152,737	
105 " Education		73,748	
45 " Social Improvement		450,379	
19 " Protection		45,058	
		60,793	
Grand total			4,121,546

THE METROPOLITAN COMMONS.

The following is a list of the commons which have been the subjects of schemes, under the Metropolitan Commons Acts, confirmed by Parliament:—

1. Hayes Common, Kent	Acres.	200	6. Barnes Common, Surrey	Acres.	120
2. Blackheath, Kent		267	7. Easting Commons, Middlesex		50
3. Shepherd's - bush Common, Middlesex		8	8. Clapham Common, Surrey		200
4. Hackney Commons, Middlesex		166	9. Postall Heath, Kent		55
5. Tooting Beck Common, Surrey		144	10. Staines Commons, Middlesex		353
			11. Brook Green, &c., Middlesex		27
					1590

FINANCE OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

The receipts of the City Estates last year amounted to	£1,429,687
This is inclusive of a balance in hand of	19,365
And exclusive of loans raised amounting to	1,006,818
The expenditure of the year amounted to	1,090,704
The expenses of the Civil Government, inclusive of Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Judges, and officers of Lord Mayor's Court, were	51,855
The cost of the erection of the new Fruit and Fish Market was	70,812
Enlarging Leadenhall Market	63,763
Erecting the City of London School on the Thames Embankment	31,329
The cost of taking the Day Census	1,200
Loans were paid off to the amount of	908,900
In addition to loans above stated, loans for making the various Markets, Holborn Valley, Bridges, &c. (for which the Corporation Estate is liable), have been raised to the amount of	£5,470,150

CITY OF LONDON TAXATION.

We gather from the Annual Report presented to Parliament by the Chamberlain of the City of London, that the amounts received for

Police, inclusive of a small balance in hand, was	£108,467
Police Superannuation Fund	9,826
Ward Rates	6,928
Sewers Rates, inclusive of loans raised, &c.	474,761
Sewers Rate Account	13,459
Sewers Rate collected on behalf of the Metropolitan Board of Works, and exclusive of balance in hand	79,746
Coal Market Fund	2,197
Coal Duty on Coals	158,500
Clerkenwell Improvement Fund, inclusive of small balance in hand	6,033
City of London Grain Duty, inclusive of balance in hand	31,688
	£886,417

In addition to this there was an overdrawn balance of £58,678 on the Dwellings House Improvement Fund.

The amounts are given in round numbers and without the odd shillings and pence.

THE LONDON WATER COMPANIES.

The accounts of the London Water Companies are published in an irregular way. The Chelsea, Grand Junction, Lambeth, Southwark and Vauxhall, and West Middlesex Companies making up their accounts for the half-years to Sept. 30 and March 31, the Kent and New River Companies to June 30 and Dec. 31, and the East London Company to June 24 and Dec. 25. In pursuance of the Metropolitan Water Act, 1871, and in the present aspect of the water question the information given in the Parliamentary Return is of special interest. The following was the amount of the water rates receivable for the two half-years by the eight companies:—Chelsea, £101,466; East London, £217,857; Grand Junction, £148,879; Kent, £94,351; Lambeth, £161,523; New River, £427,367; Southwark and Vauxhall, £188,280; West Middlesex, £172,487. The total revenue receivable by the companies from water rates was thus, £1,515,194; but they also derived revenue from interest and "rents and extra receipts," the latter item varying between £115 in the case of the Lambeth Company and £8738 in that of the New River Company, which possesses a large amount of land and house property. The cash balances of all the companies, including cash reserves brought forward, were considerable, being as follows:—Chelsea, £66,748; East London, £66,978; Grand Junction, £40,419; Kent, £55,117; Lambeth, £55,404; New River, £290,077; Southwark and Vauxhall, £46,271; and West Middlesex, £118,878; or a total of £709,895. The principal item of expenditure was, of course, on maintenance of works and for pumping, and under this head the aggregate outlay of the companies was £248,747, divided as follows:—Chelsea, £15,661; East London, £36,018 (including £2952 for the reconstruction of filter beds); Grand Junction, £23,970; Kent, £14,181; Lambeth, £36,324; New River, £55,146; Southwark and Vauxhall, £47,407 (including £5778 balance of an amount due by revenue to capital); and West Middlesex, £20,037. The sum paid for directors' "allowances" is an interesting item, the total amount paid by the eight companies for the year having been no less than £22,794, in the following proportions:—Chelsea, £1230; East London, £2148; Grand Junction, £1640; Kent, £2000; Lambeth, £1845; New River, £9419; Southwark and Vauxhall, £2050; and West Middlesex, £2461. With regard to the amount paid as interest and dividend on capital, the Chelsea Company paid on loan capital, £6828; the East London, £18,156; the Grand Junction, £9552; the Kent, £1735; the Lambeth, £8996; the New River, £43,644; and the Southwark and Vauxhall, £18,860; or a total of £107,775. The West Middlesex Company has no loan capital. Only two of the companies have preference share capital—the Chelsea and the Southwark and Vauxhall—and the amount paid by the former company as dividend on this capital was £18,075, and by the latter company, £24,460. The total amount paid by the companies as dividend on their ordinary share capital was £771,575, divided as follows:—Chelsea, £40,014; East London, £108,051; Grand Junction, £76,348; Kent, £57,579; Lambeth, £79,190; New River, £219,692; Southwark and Vauxhall, £65,779; and West Middlesex, £124,419. The total capital of the eight companies is £12,536,898, the proportion of share capital being £9,087,917 ordinary, and £374,200 preference, while the loan capital is represented by £32,500 of bonds, and £2,522,281 of debentures. The total capital of the respective companies is as follows:—Chelsea, £1,152,700; East London, £2,020,000; Grand Junction, £1,295,500; Kent, £699,878; Lambeth, £1,413,805; New River, £3,119,644; Southwark and Vauxhall, £1,790,000; and West Middlesex, £1,045,371. The total expenditure for works was £12,612,589, divided as follows:—Chelsea (to March 31, 1881), £1,149,157; East London (Dec. 31, 1880), £2,064,546; Grand Junction (March 31, 1881), £1,312,109; Kent (Dec. 31, 1880), £704,738 (including £75,684 discount on shares issued between 1869-58); Lambeth (March 31, 1881), £1,435,765; New River (Dec. 31, 1880), £3,132,501; Southwark and Vauxhall (March 31, 1881), £1,783,418; and West Middlesex (March 31, 1881), £1,030,353.

THE LONDON WATER SUPPLY.

With regard to the quality of the water supplied by the Metropolitan Water Companies, only a slight improvement can be reported; for the fact remains that the sewage of a million of the population residing on the drainage grounds above the intake of the Water Companies still finds its way, more or less directly, into the Thames.