

now composed as follows: Abraham May, Fred A. Twanley, Mark Norris, W. J. Stewart, Mrs. L. S. Provin, Dr. Frances Rutherford, M. H. Sorrick, J. R. Wylie, Mrs. T. D. Gilbert, Wm. M. Graham, C. L. Harvey, Mrs. M. R. Bissell, James A. Hunt, W. Millard Palmer, John W. Blodgett, H. J. Hollister, Cyrus E. Perkins, Henry Idema, C. S. Udell, Mrs. E. P. Fuller, Rev. J. A. Schmitt.

Soon after the society was organized the threatened financial crisis came to the city, and for many months suffering and want were alleviated by its efforts. A work-room was established at the office, 139 N. Division street, in which the needy could work and earn clothing and provisions. During the first year 2,024 days' work was there done and 3,577 dinners were served. The winter after its organization D. H. Waters gave to the society a supply of provisions and a stock of wood, amounting to more than \$4,000 in value. He gave the society the use of a store on Ottawa street, as a store-room for provisions, and the use of the vacant lot where the exhibition building now stands, at the corner of Ottawa and Lyon streets, for a wood-yard. He also donated a large tract of timber near the city, which was cut into logs, drawn to the woodyard and there cut into stovewood. The woodyard was a busy place for the first winter and a portion of the second winter after the society was organized. During the year 1893-94-95 many a good mechanic and thrifty workingman was glad to work under the direction of the society for the necessaries of life, and take his pay in provisions and fuel. The business men of Grand Rapids placed at the absolute disposal of the society provisions and fuel, with only the condition that all persons relieved should first be investigated and their worthiness certified to by the society. The reduced numbers each year, for the dozen years since its organization, aided by the society, tell the story of the city's prosperity and the benefits of the society.

A few weeks after the society was organized there was such a demand for nurses to care for the needy sick that appeals were made to the hospitals for help and the services of graduate nurses secured. The society established a supply room, from which bedding, clothing and nourishing food are sent to the sick poor. The work in this department has ever since continued, and most of the time during the past ten years two