

nurses or more have been employed. In 1890 Emerson Mc-Millan gave \$1,000 to this department, of which \$600 was used to hire a nurse for a year and \$400 was unred for emergency cases. The department is now conducted by the District Nurses' Association.

The society keeps a complete record of its work. Since its organization the society has aided more than eight thousand cases, each of which is recorded. As a result the cost of maintaining the poor department of the city has largely decreased; benevolent associations and fraternal societies do not duplicate each other's work; fraud is detected; the public suffers little imposition from unworthy people; all worthy cases are investigated and aided; needy sick are assisted, and poverty is vanishing from Grand Rapids. All these benefits are received at a cost of less than twenty-five hundred dollars a year. Surely the good of the Charity Organization Society can hardly be overestimated.

In June, 1896, the National Conference of Charities held its twenty-third annual meeting at Grand Rapids. Two general sessions were held daily, and there were in addition about twenty section meetings held during the week. The president of the Conference that year was Abbot O. Wright, of Madison, Wisconsin. Among the papers read was one upon "The Friendly Visitor," by Mrs. L. P. Rowland, of Grand Rapids, and Rt. Rev. G. D. Gillespie, of Grand Rapids, was a member of the Executive Committee for the year. The following year Harvey J. Hollister also became a member of the Executive Committee. It was a grand gathering of men and women devoted to noble purposes who did honor to the city. It was an event in local life, and a benefit to all benevolent institutions of the city. In 1897, at Toronto, Ontario, Mr. James R. Wylie gave an address before the National Conference upon the "Organization of City and County Public Charities" which attracted much attention and excited much favorable comment.

#### The Y. M. C. A.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Grand Rapids was organized on June 6, 1866, with the following officers: President, Moreau C. Crosby; vice-president, J. T. Miller; recording secretary, C. E. Hulbert; corresponding secretary, Rev. J. Mor-