

marily for orphans and deserted children, although children and wards whose parents and guardians can aid in their support but have no homes for them are sometimes received and cared for, each case being governed and judged by its own peculiar circumstances.

Homes are often found for children without parents or friends, and friends and relatives are found for those deserted or left alone in the world. The institution is not limited in its charity, and good work to the children of any race, creed or color. Any child without home or friends, whose physical and mental condition is normal, is eligible to become an inmate of St. John's Orphan Asylum.

It is essentially, however, a Catholic institution, organized and governed by the church. Its revenues are largely derived from the church. An annual collection for its maintenance is taken in each church of the diocese. Each year there is held a supper or fair which has become a social event among all the Catholic churches of the city, and whose entire income goes for the support of the asylum. Like all institutions and societies under the control and direction of Bishop Richter, the asylum is out of debt. The beneficence of John Clancy and the careful, prudent management of the trust fund has given Grand Rapids an institution whose benefits can not be overestimated and whose blessings will increase as the years go by.

Little Sisters of the Poor.

Among the many charities of the city none do better and more effectual work than the Little Sisters of the Poor. It is a Catholic order, instituted in France more than sixty years ago. They form a congregation of nuns-hospitallers, converted by vow to the care of poor and infirm aged people. Since its organization the order has founded and built nearly three hundred homes for old people in different countries of the earth, which have sheltered nearly two hundred thousand inmates. There are two requirements for reception into their homes: old age and poverty. Old age begins at sixty; poverty is inability to obtain a livelihood and lack of means for support. Admission is not limited to any religion, sect, race or nationality. The Little Sisters give themselves up to the work of hospitality. They have no servants, no paid employes. They do