

or four years by the State and city ; and it becomes, too, the strongest argument for a continuance, at least, if not an increase, of that legislative and municipal liberality which has hitherto been extended to this Institution. Notwithstanding this exorbitant advance of prices, by careful management we have been able to close the year without a suspended debt, and with a balance on hand carry on the operations of the House until new supplies shall be appropriated, which are generally made available about the first of March.

In making an approximate estimate of the wants of the Board for the support of the Institution, we can only go back to the actual expenditures on general account of last year as a basis of calculation. This, as before said, was in round numbers, \$47,000. To meet this sum we have only an available balance of \$9,127.85, which, taken from the first amount, will leave a deficit of about \$38,000. It is only proper to say, however, that in the statement there appears an item of income which it might seem only right to bring into the account.

This the proceeds from the labor of boys board of inmates, &c., amounting to \$9,184.76 ; of this, \$7,332.93 is charged to labor, and \$1,599.24 to board. But this labor is under contract, and may or may not be made available for the current year, owing to the unsettled condition of the business and finances of the country. Under the circumstances, it can only be looked upon as a contingent receipt, and as such cannot be safely relied on as a certain resource of support.

With no present prospect then, of a favorable change in prices, and with the certainty that the number of inmates will not be less, the Board are under the necessity of seeking from the State and city, appropriations equal at least to the deficit above estimated.

The Board had hoped to have been able to report the commencement at least of the erection of the new wing so much required, and in former communications referred to ; but exercising proper caution and having before them rough details of the cost of the building, it was considered to be the most prudent course to defer the work until there shall seem to be some prospect of a decrease in the price of materials and labor. They do not feel authorized to enter into any engagements for so large an expenditure as will be required ; and under existing uncertainties as to obtaining means, they prefer to exercise a patient waiting until things shall settle down to a more reasonable standard. In thus depriving themselves of a most earnest desire, they have not been negligent, both in adding to their future building resources, and of profitably investing the funds already in hand. Thus, they have now available \$20,454.09, towards the cost of the erec-