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**Editorial.**

**THE LADY MAYORESS' FUND FOR GOD'S POOR.**

The poor of this City may look forward with somewhat lighter hearts to the advent of the bitter winter weather, which is to be expected before long, since the Lady Mayoress has espoused their cause; the machinery of the Mansion House is at work to ameliorate their lot and a fund is being opened for their relief bearing the above name.

We know the poor under all circumstances, and no one who has worked amongst them can fail to admire their courage, their patience, and the pitiful way in which they take for granted that they needs must forego sufficient food, warm clothing, and decent dwellings; and every effort for the amelioration of hardships they endure has our warm sympathy. The shame of it all is—a shame which should be felt by every man and woman in the metropolis—that in the richest City in the world such things should be; that men eager for work should be unable to obtain it; that women should have to hasten out of hospital after their confinement because, until they do, there is no one to earn the money for the rent, or for the husband's and children's food; that newly-born infants should have to be wrapped by nurses, doing district work, in newspapers, because there is no garment of any kind to put on them; that respectable families are herded together in one room, for which they pay a rent out of all proportion to its value; and that many have not even this insufficient shelter, but sleep on the Embankment and elsewhere, the bitter nights through.

The Administrative Committee which has been formed by Lady Knill to carry out her beneficent project consists at present of the Lord Mayor, herself as Lady Mayoress, the Archbishop of Westminster, the Bishop of London, and Prebendary Carlile, all of

whom are well known for their sympathy with and work for the poor.

The Fund is, as far as possible, to be administered through existing organisations, and will be divided into three distinct branches, including:—

1. *The Relief of Poor Families in their Homes.*—(a) Work Relief, enabling the man to earn maintenance for his family; (b) Sick Relief in Kind, given through the clergy, ministers, and institutions; (c) The Provision of Clothing. This is urgently required, and every man and woman in London is invited to send at least one warm garment to help the suffering poor.

2. *The Finding of Employment for those Out of Work.*—It is hoped to stimulate employment in various ways.

3. *The Relief of the Homeless Poor.*—The Fund will endeavour to offer to all those who have to live in the streets on winter nights the opportunity to earn lodgings and food by work, and then to give every possible help to those who really desire to work their way up again; to secure to men, tested in labour yards and labour homes, suitable situations on leaving, and to emigrate suitable cases.

The Lady Mayoress is also having tickets printed which will entitle the holder to food, coal, or wood to the value of fourpence, and bearing the description, "Honoured at the Mansion House," so that tradesmen may know that these tickets are as safe as Bank of England notes. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to "The Lady Mayoress Fund" at the Mansion House, E.C., and crossed Messrs. Robarts, Lubbock and Co.

We feel confident that the Lady Mayoress will not appeal in vain to the liberality of the citizens of London, and that all, according to their opportunity and means, including the members of the nursing profession, will do something to help.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)