

department. The ordinary expenditure in 1931 was £19,907 as compared with £15,956 in 1922. These figures give some idea of the development of the institution's work. In 1922 the ophthalmic department was opened and the following year was established a department for the treatment of ear, nose and throat trouble. An extension for the treatment of orthopaedic patients was opened in 1927, and there is at present a scheme under consideration for a further extension to accommodate more beds and a new operating theatre. When the times are more propitious an appeal is to be launched for funds to build a new Infirmary on land in Dialstone Lane which has already been acquired.

Good work also continues to be done by such excellent charities as the Sick Poor Nursing Association, the Pendlebury Orphanage, the Institute for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, and the Lads' Club.

Apart from the work of the Workers' Educational Association, the cultural influences in Stockport are mainly directed into two channels, music and the drama. The town has no central literary or debating society, though there are excellent organisations of this type in Heaton Moor and Reddish. In common with the rest of the country, the town has witnessed a tremendous growth in the amateur dramatic movement, many new societies having sprung into being, though at present the continued trade depression is affecting their financial resources. The premier dramatic society, the Garrick, celebrated its silver jubilee in 1926, and in 1928 it received a grant of £1,000 from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees (having raised by special efforts a similar sum), the whole to be devoted to the purchase of Garrick Hall from the limited company which owns it. The Society now has a membership of nearly 600, and since its foundation in 1900 it has produced over 200 plays apart from revivals.

Music, in common with other artistic efforts, has suffered during the industrial depression. Ten years ago the Stockport Vocal Union was in a fairly flourishing state. The concerts were well patronised and the Committee was able to engage some of the finest artists in the country. Since then the public support has gradually declined, and although various economies have been effected the Society has had a big struggle to maintain its series of concerts in recent years. The chief change in the personnel of the Vocal Union was the resignation in 1929 of Mr. Henry Bell, D.L., and Mr. William Marsland from the position of Joint Hon. Secretaries. Mr. Bell had 52 years' service, first as Hon. Treasurer and afterwards as Hon. Secretary, and Mr. Marsland had also been an active official for many years. Mr. Bell was elected the first President and Mr. Marsland the first Vice-President of the Vocal Union. Mr. Herbert Lowe succeeded to the position of Hon. Secretary.

The Stockport branch of the Workers' Educational Association still continues to do valuable work for adult education by means of public lectures, tutorial classes conducted by University professors, and terminal courses. Courses held last year included English Literature, Economics, Psychology and Ancient Civilisation and Primitive Man. The work receives the support and approval of the Stockport Education Committee.

The religious life of the town has been marked by considerable progress in the past ten years, particularly in the direction of catering for the young