

and new streets have been opened and built up together with many of the older ones in the outlying districts. The average number of patrolmen in this department, available for patrol duty, after deducting those detailed for police headquarters, for wagon service, etc., and the average number off duty on account of sickness and leave of absence allowed by law, is 568, or one patrolman to over 900 inhabitants. This number of patrolmen is divided into three divisions. As the Board stated in its last report :—

“ This number is clearly insufficient to properly patrol so large and important a city as Baltimore, and discharge the exacting duties demanded in connection therewith, to leave out of consideration the requirements of special duty which are frequently perplexingly taxing with the present force, necessitating unusually long hours of service on the part of the men and necessarily leaving posts with meagre protection. Particularly is this the case during registration, election times and on other special occasions. There being 308 election precincts in the city, it is readily seen that the available force is almost, if not entirely, used on election day in and about the polling places, if but two policemen are assigned to each, leaving the city, except at or near these specific localities, to look out for itself.”

The Board respectfully recommends that the present law be so amended as to authorize the appointment of one hundred more policemen.

DETECTIVES.

The Board also desires to repeat the recommendation made in former reports for an increase in the detective corps. As before stated, the Board believes the necessity exists and is growing, for the assignment of a detective for each of the several station houses, said detective to be under the direction of the commanding officer of the district and to operate from the station house. This system, which is and has been for