and the district managers of the poor in Baltimore county for the time being, shall individually have and exercise the power and authority to arrest or cause to be arrested and taken up, either in the city or county of Baltimore, any child or children, who is or are destitute and suffering for the want of support, or may be found begging about the streets of the city of Baltimore, and the child or children of beggars, and to send them at the expense of the city or county, as the case may be, to the poor house of Baltimore County," &c.

2. The answer thereto is embraced in the foregoing.

3. Children at the almshouse who are old enough to be separated from their nurses, are schooled at the institution, and are kept in apartments separate from the adults. The cost for supporting them is small compared to the expense consequent upon the maintenance of the other inmates; yet all experience confirms the conclusion that good habits can be better cultivated and confirmed in them by procuring good and comfortable homes for them elsewhere. The acts of 1808, chap. 54, and 1826, chap. 161, give to the trustees of the poor the authority to apprentice the children who may be placed under their care, to farmers, mechanics, or other suitable persons, at their discretion. This power has always been exercised, and so frequent and importunate are the applications made to the trustees for children, that few remain long at the institution, except such as are physically deformed, debilitated or otherwise objectionable. Those who apply for children are required to furnish testimonials of character and of fitness in every essential to take charge of and rear them. Such application must be made in person, and when the trustees are satisfied with the qualifications and the temperament of the party, the child is placed with the latter for a short period on trial, and subsequently bound unless objections should arise to prevent a contract. The provisions of the indentures are such as are generally required by the Orphan's court, to wit: to learn them a trade or calling, as the case may be, to clothe, feed, educate, &c.

In the selection of homes for children, the trustees are governed by circumstances. If the children have been exposed to the influences of vicious examples, or to the evils

growing out of idleness, or street begging, it is the invariable custom to place such with farmers who do not own or regularly employ blacks. In all cases do the trustees refuse to place children with persons who may employ them in a manner calculated to lessen self respect or engender self-abasement, or whose callings may expose them to immoral influences.

4. The trustees are not able to supply one half the demand for apprentices. Many persons who have not children of their own, take from the Almshouse children from two to five years of age, and even younger, and adopt them. Others take them from benevolent considerations. No department of the institution so fully and satisfactorily accomplishes the noble ends of its endowment as the children's department. It fully repays in its gratifying results, the labor of the trustees, and furnishes abundant cause for gratulation to the benefactors, if any such be living, who conceived the benevolent expedient.

If the laws existing upon the subject of arrest and commitment were executed in their rigor, the brothel, the jail, the penitentiary, and worse than either or all of them, the house of prostitution, would to a great extent, be deprived of its victims.

5. In binding out children it is the general custom to consult their parent or parents if they have such. Objections are sometimes made by the latter on account of the particular religious opinions of the party applying and for other causes, and the trustees as often yield to the objections. No religious principle or injunction of the parent is disregarded; no pulse of the heart is probed. The only exceptions to this general rule are when vice or drunkenness extreme, or prostitution has rendered the parent insensible to the sacred feelings of filial love, or unfit to counsel with. Such cases are unfrequent.

6. The frequent elopements of adult paupers evidence the insufficiency of the means to prevent escape. The trustees, however, indulge the hope that they will be able in the current year, from funds likely to come into their possession from the Calverton estate, to construct a stone building for the insane males. When such building shall be finished, the present insane