7,483 articles of bedding, besides articles of furniture and household utensils to those who had no means of providing these necessary articles for themselves. The transportation committee provided over 5,000 persons with transportation to all parts of the country. In most instances transportation was furnished free by the railroads and the steamboat lines. Appeals for help were referred to the emergency committee, for investigation; over 3,000 appeals were made in writing and thousands in person.

Women's Auxiliary

A women's auxiliary was organized soon after the organization of the relief association, and a great deal of suffering was relieved through the efforts of these ladies. They had a bureau of information, to which all women came and made known their needs; commissaries of food and supplies; a receiving station; a dispensary, where medicines were kept; nurses were provided when necessary. They had a sewing tent, and many needy women were given employment making sheets, pillow cases and other articles, which were distributed among the fire sufferers. They also had a purchasing department, an employment bureau, and a medical department.

Notes on the Fire

In 8 hours the fire swept an area \( \frac{5}{8} \) mile from north to south and \( 1\frac{1}{2} \) mile from west to east, embracing 466 acres in the oldest and most populous portion of the city.

City blocks to the number of 146 were burned over, and 2,363 buildings destroyed. Every public building, except the U. S. government building, was burned, together with the public records, though those of the county judge's office in the court house went safely through the fire. Twenty-three churches and ten hotels were burned.

Within the fire area only three buildings escaped—one at the northeast corner of Adams and Jefferson, another on the river front at the foot of Laura Street (the fire was checked here and the building is still standing, in the rear of the West Building, southeast corner of Laura and Bay Streets), and the third a small novelty works at Beaver and Washington.