FEVER HOSPITAL CORK STREET.

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House of Recovery Cork Street Fever Hospital

Annual Report and Medical Report

From 1st April 1855 to 31st March 1856

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REPORT

OF THE

MANAGING COMMITTEE

OF THE

Youse of Recovery

AND

FEVER HOSPITAL,

TN

CORK STREET, DUBLIN,

FOR ONE YEAR, FROM THE 1ST APRIL, 1855, TO THE 31ST OF MARCH, 1856.

WITH THE

Medical Report Annexed,

FROM THE 1st APRIL, 1855, TO THE 31st MARCH, 1856.

PATRICK HARKAN, M. D.,

ONE OF THE PHYSICIANS.

DUBLIN:

PRINTED FOR THE COMMITTEE.

BY RICHARD D. WEBB, GREAT BRUNSWICK-ST.

1856.

A STATEMENT

OP

THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS ADMITTED

THE PIL

FEVER HOSPITAL, CORK STREET, DUBLIN, Jon One Year,

FROM 1ST APRIL, 1855, TO 31ST MARCH, 1856.

TOGETHER WITH THE AGGREGATE NUMBER OF DAYS SPENT BY THE SAID PATIENTS IN THE HOSPITAL; ALSO THE TOTAL EXPENSE OF PROVISIONS; BY WHICH IS SHOWN THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS EACH PATIENT REMAINED IN THE HOSPITAL, AND THE AVERAGE EXPENSE OF EACH PATIENT.

Patients admitted	•••	•••	•••	•••	2,204
Aggregate number of da	ys in	Hospital	•••		34,906
Average number of days	of ea	ch patient	;	•••	153
Total Expense of Hospi	ital }	£3,683	13	2	
Expense of Provisions Patients and Servants	for }	1,421	5	10	
Average expense of ear Patient	-	1	13	5	
Average daily expense each Patient	of }		2	13	

Patients.

Admitted from 1st May, 1804, to		
3 1st March, 1856, inclusive	•••	172,217
Discharged, cured or relieved	159,908	
Died	12,211	
Remaining in Hospital on 31st		
March, 1856	9 8	
Total		172,217
In Hospital 1st April, 1855	103	
Admitted to 31st March, 1856	2,204	
Total		2,307
Discharged from 1st April, 1855,		
to 3 1st March, 1856	2,067	
Died	142	
Remaining in Hospital on 31st		
March, 1856	98	2,307
000000 0000		•

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF PATIENTS, From 1st April, 1855, to 31st March, 1856.

Years.	Months.	Admitted.	Discharged	Died.	Monthly Aggregate
1847	April	244	220	21	3486
• • •	'May	204	180	20	3290
	June	274	257	19	3437
	July	196	201	20	3074
	August	136	127	ΙΙ	2263
	September	161	146	5	2841
	October	166	174	5 5	2600
	November	1.37	123	5	2325
	December	161	150	10	2791
1856	January	185	157	8	2879
	February	163	166	8	3090
	March	177	166	10	2826
	Total	2204	2067	142	34906

Statement of the Funds of the HOUSE OF RECOVERY, Continues, on 31st March, 1856.

	Income.			Expenditure.	
sl <u>t</u> t.		£ L	4	1855.	
April 26, To	moort received from South Dalkin			April 1, 8; Belson, ris,	
·	Vision	90 12	0	Bank of Ireland, due it, £984 8 1	
Ащ. 16, п	Parliamentary Grant	I,000 0	0	in bands of Transcen 114 10 0	
lid_{i}/Π_{i-H}	South Dublio Union	108 6	0	869 18 1	
	North Dublie Union		0		
,, 31, n	Discount on Pimand Ca. a account	0 4	9	March 31, Amount paid for Provisions 1,431 5 to	
	Government Stack (Interest)	180 8	6	7 0	
	Grand Canal Stock	105 I3	1		
	Reata	134 15	5		J
	Subscriptions	251 13	б	Bapairo of Buildings 132 12 4	
	Legacian and Donations	5 0	0	Bents 106 8 0	
	Ladis	46 14	1	Reimalaure 1011 6	
1856.				Light and Fred 330 I I	
i, il foulk				Scap, Soda, and Starch 67 to 11	
	Bank of Ireland, doe it, £1801 12 2			Stationery, Prioring, &c 35 8 9	
	Treasurer, doe by them, 127 5 9			Saluries, Wages, and Allowances 967 11 2	
	_	c,674 6	Ş	Incidental Distrumenta \$4 4 4	
		E4,553 11	3	£4,553 11 3	

By order of the Managing Committee,
CHARLES MATHERS, Abgistra.

Mannging Committee :

- *JOSEPH ALLEN
- *RICHARD ATKINSON.
- *WILLIAM JAMESON.
- *EDWARD BARRINGTON.
- *DOCTOR CUSACK.
- *THOMAS CROSTHWAIT.
- *JAMES HAUGHTON.
- *JOSEPH HONE.
- *COLONEL LA TOUCHE.
- *WM. DIGGES LA TOUCHE.

- *JAMES PIM.
- *GEORGE ROE.
- *WILLIAM H. PIKE,
- *JOHN LENTAIGNE, M.D.
- *BENJAMIN LEE GUINNESS. DOCTOR HARRISON.

JOHN BARRINGTON.

HENRY SHAW.

GEORGE A. WALLER.

BERESFORD B. SMYTH.

* These marked are Trustess.

Physicians :

G. A. KENNEDY, M.D.

PATRICK HARKAN, M.D.

Cemporary Physicians :

SAMUEL HANNA, M.D.

THOMAS BRADY, M.D.

Surgeon.

LEONARD TRANT, M.R.C.S.I.

Resident Officers :

REGISTRAR

APOTHECARY

HOUSEKEEPER

HEAD NURSE

CHARLES MATHEWS.
HENRY HEISE.

AMELIA MULLEN.
MARY CARROLL.

Collector:

HENRY HILLSWORTH.



Servants usually employed at the Hospital, who are increased or decreased according to circumstances:—

Three Porters; fourteen Nurses, and ten Female Servants; besides one Engineer attendant on washing apparatus; one Laundress and one Sewer.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

RECEIVED FROM 1ST APRIL, 1855, TO 31ST MARCH, 1856.

	£	٥.	đ.		£	8.	d.
Allen, Joseph	2	2	0	Findlater, Alexander	1	0	0
Allon, Alexander		L	0	Do, for year ending			
Allen, Richard	1	1	0	31st March, 1857	1	0	0
Atkiason, Richard	2	2	0	Ferrier and Co.	4	4	0
Barrington, Edward	2	2	0	Ferguson, F. C.	I	o	0
Baker and Wardle	1		0	Findlater, John	I	0	0
Bruce Halliday	ı	I	0	Gninness, Arthur	5	0	0
Bank of Freland	20	0	0	Do., Executors of	2	10	0
Do. for year ending				Guinness, Benjamin Lee	2	3	0
31st March, 1857	20	0	0	Do. for year ending			
Ballast Office	6	6	0	31st March, 1857	2	2	0
Do. for year ending				Glorney, Samuel	I	0	0
31st March, 1857	6	6	0	Gatchell, Robert	1	1	0
Bonehier, Miss	I	0	0	Greame and Dunbill	1	0	0
Do. for year ending				Garrett, J. F.	1	0	0
31st March, 1857	1	0	0	Hanghton, William	1	I	0
Busby, John		0	0	Do. for year ending			
Bewley and Evane	I	0	0	31st March, 1857	1	I	0
Bewley and Hogg	3	3	0	Hone, Nathaniel	4	4	0
Bewley, Mesars, Palace	•	•		Hutton, Messrs	I	1	0
Street	4	4	0	Haughton, James	2	2	0
Barrington, John	2	3.		Hayes, Bros.	1	1	0
Bagot, Mesers.	1	0	0	Healey, John	0	10	0
Bank, The Royal	5	5	0	Hall, Alexander	I	0	0
Bell, John	ŏ	10	0	Harris, Joseph	0	10	0
Benhan, J.	0	10	0	Hone, Thomas	2	2	0
Crosthwait, Thomas	2	2	0	Jameson, William	2	2	0
Do. for year ending				Do. for year ending			
31st March, 1857	2	2	0	3 18t March, 1857	2	2	0
Casack, Dector	2	2	0	Jameson, John	1	0	0
Clarke, J. R	1	1	0	Kinshan and Co	2	2	0
Caffrey, Messes	1	0	0	Knighting, J. M	2	2	0
Cannock and White	2	0	0	Lentaigne, John	2:	2:	0
Clarke, Patrick	I	0	0	Leslie, Charles	3	0	0
D. & K. Railway	2	2	0	Lewis, Fred.	0	5	0
D'Arcy, Mesers. & Co.	¥	0	0	La Touche, Mesers	21	0	0
Donegan, John	1	0	0	Manders, Rich. and Co.	1	1	0
Drake and Son	0	10	0	Do. for year ending			
English, John		0	0	31st March, 1857	1	1	0
Early, John		10	0	Magee, Mrs.	0	10	0
Edmundson, J. and Co.		0	0	Malone, William	1	0	0
Friend, a	1	0	0	Malone, Messo	I	0	0

	£	S.	d.	ř	£	8,	d.
Murphy, John	Ī	0	0	Phair, John	[0	0
Millar, Messra.	0	10	0	Phelps, George	1	[0
Moore, Mesars	0	10	0	Queale, Robert	1	0	0
McGarry and Co.	[0	0	Robertson, John	1	1	0
McGurty, William	I	0	0	Do. for year ending			
McSwiney and Delany	I	0	0	31st March, 1857	I	I	0
McBirney, Collis & Co.	I	0	0	Roe, George	2	2	0
Noble, John	0	2	6	Reed, Messrs.	0	IO	0
Ord, Arthur	ſ	0	0	Shiels and Scott	I	I	0
Ord, Thomas	E	0	0	Sykes and Hull	0	10	0
Pim, James	2	2	0	Sweetman, Messrs	4	4	0
Do. for year ending				Spence, E	ľ	0	0
31st March, 1857	2	2	0	Smyth, B. B	2	2	0
Pim, Thomas	2	2	0	Shaw, Henry	2	2	0
Pim, William H	2	0	0	Spring, John	[0	0
Do. for year ending				Thompson, Henry	I	I	0
31st March, 1857	2	0	0	Do. for year ending			
Pim, Jonathan	2	0	0	31st March, 1857	1	I	0
Do. for year ending				Taylor, William	2	2	0
31st March, 1857	2	0	0	Vance and Beers	I	0	0
Pim, Thomas, jun,	2	0	0	West, Jacob	1	ſ	0
Do. for year ending				Do. for year ending			
3 ist March, 1857				31st March, 1857	I	ı	0
Pike, William Hill	2	2	0	Watkins, Joseph	2	2	0
Pike, Wight	Ē	I	0	Williamson, Richard	I	I	0
Perry, J	1	I	0	Wilson, Thomas	ı	I	0
Pennefather, Hon. Baron	1	0	0	Waller, A. F.	2	2	0
Pattison, Henry	I	[0	Wight, Messes	I	0	0
Purser, John T.	1	[0	Woods, Patk.	_	10	0
Parker, William and S.	J	0	0		_		_
Parkes, J. C.	I	0	0	£	251	13	6
• 10		_		-	-) -	• •1	V

MEDICAL REPORT

OF THE

HOUSE OF RECOVERY

AND

FEVER HOSPITAL,

CORK-STREET, DUBLIN,

FOR ONE YEAR, FROM THE 18T APRIL, 1855, TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1856.

BY

PATRICK HARKAN, M.D.

FELLOW OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND ONE OF THE PHYSICIANS TO THE HOSPITAL.



DUBLIN:

PRINTED FOR THE COMMITTEE,
BY RICHARD D. WEBB, GREAT BRUNSWICK ST.

1856.

INTRODUCTION.



The Managing Committee, in directing public attention to the accompanying Medical Report, desire especially to notice the fact, that although the amount of fever in Dublin during the period to which it refers has been small compared with the inflictions of previous years, yet the Report exhibits a steady increase of this dire disease among our population. It is necessary to direct the attention of the citizens of Dublin to this fact. Parliament have of late years reduced the annual grant to the Hospital so considerably, that its funds are now insufficient to meet its expenses; so that, without a larger amount of private subscriptions than has heretofore been contributed, this Fever Hospital, so long the guardian of the wealthy classes from the inroads of malignant fever, instead of being able to afford relief as formerly to all applicants, will be forced to lessen the reception within its walls of even the present limited number of patients, thus rendering the danger of infection more imminent.

This calamity may be prevented, or kept greatly in check, by the enlargement of the number of annual subscribers to the funds of the Hospital.

The Committee would further add that as "prevention is better than cure," it would be well for all classes of their fellow-citizens seriously to reflect on Dr. Harkan's wise suggestions on the use of intoxicating liquors, and his commendation of those sanitary measures adopted in our city for some years past.

MEDICAL REPORT.

THE official report of the Patients admitted, discharged, and dead, during the last three years in this Hospital is as follows:—

From April 1st, 1853 to March 3rd, 1854; Admitted, 1389; Discharged, 1291; Dead, 101.

From April 1st, 1854 to March 31st, 1855, Admitted, 2065; Discharged, 1853; Dead, 166.

From April 1st, 1855 to March 31st, 1856, Admitted, 2204; Discharged, 2067; Dead, 142.

From this it appears that the relative numbers of admissions, discharges, and deaths during the last three years are not proportionally different to a material dedegree. This may, in a great measure, be accounted for by the fortunate circumstance of the city being comparatively exempt from Epidemics which formerly raged. It is an additional subject of congratulation that even in the ordinary cases of fever, which must ever prevail more or less in a poor crowded population, the mortality has in general been moderate. Various causes have contri-

buted to this happy result. Among these stands prominent the improvement in the habits of the people, with reference to temperance and abstinence from spirituous liquors. The destructive consequences to society of drunkenness are too well known to require any but a passing allusion. Loss of lives, irreparable bedily injuries, neglect of business, entailing misery on themselves and families, are items of this sad catalogue. This subject has these few years past been ably and zealously handled by Philanthropists in every class, in public meetings and in private life. It should, however, be known that a medical view of the effects of habitual drunkenness on the body discloses a state seldom contemplated by those addicted to this vice. The necessary sequelæ of unnatural and continued stimulation of the stomach are change of structure of its coats, loss of tone and unhealthy action of the other digestive organs chylification, the secretions, and excretions can longer, from the loss of vital power, be healthy, and the blood must of course become vitiated. The necessary consequence of this state is, that when a drunkard is seized with fever it most frequently assumes the adynamic form, from which (if it does not prove fatal) he recovers with more difficulty than a patient of sober habits. In the former case, the Physician is often obliged to administer freely stimuli to rouse or sustain the sinking powers of life. Many lives are thus saved which would inevitably be lost were the true nature of the delirium and fever not understood. The timely use of opium, camphor, ammonia, wine, or porter has in almost every case of delirium tremens which was treated in this Hospital, been successful. It is hardly necessary to say, that the treatment according to circumstances was frequently modified, drastic purgatives were avoided; though occasionally the combination of aperients with stimuli was necessary. It must, however, reluctantly be admitted, that last year cases of delirium tremens were more numerous than the preceding year. This was more evident in private practice, particularly in the markets. The improvement of the people is still so very great when compared with former years, that there appears just ground of hope that they appreciate now too fully the inestimable benefits of temperance and total abstinence ever to fall back to their former state.

The sanitary measures lately adopted with vigour in the city deserve the utmost praise, having certainly contributed to the prevention of sickness. The cleansing of streets and houses by the removal of masses of decomposed animal and vegetable matter is obviously to the whole world a most beneficial and much wanted measure, experience having proved these to be a nidus of malignant fever. However salutary and necessary the purification from the miasm emanating from these offensive matters undoubtedly is, it would nevertheless be a great mistake to infer that the habitations of the poor in the confined lanes and alleys are thereby secured from the attacks of fever. Their houses are generally ill constructed, the ventilation imperfect, their apartments

crowded. In winter, from their inability to procure sufficient clothing and firing, they often exclude the admission of pure air in order to keep themselves warm. During the night they consequently breathe an atmosphere vitiated by the previous inhalation of many others. When we combine these circumstances with want or scarcity of healthy food and sufficient clothing, no medical man of experience can be at a loss to discover the numerous predisposing causes of fever among the poor. When fever is thus generated, the importance to society at large of removing the patient to Hospital is obvious. By remaining without proper remedies in their own apartments, the fever soon assumes a more dangerous form, and merges into typhus of a contagious nature.

Typhus has not been very prevalent in the Hospital during the last year. Petechio or vibices or blotches have not often appeared, particularly when assuming a dun or livid colour. In a few cases the removal to the pure air of the Hospital produced rapidly the most beneficial effect, independently of the remedies used. In three or four cases paralysis, supervened, which proved tedious in every instance and fatal in two. The great majority of the cases of fever in the Hospital, were of the synochoid form. But it was very remarkable, that the sthenic symptoms seldom continued longer than the first three or four days and shewed an early tendency to the adynamic type.

Headache and severe pains of the spine and limbs characterized the first stage, prostration of strength

generally followed, and in some cases great collapse. In a comparatively few cases, the cerebral affection was very serious and threatened lesion of the brain. Congestion was not uncommon, and terminated more than once or twice in coma and effusion into the ventrates. timely aid was administered, the antiphlogistic treatment seldom failed to subdue the fever. Cold applications to the head, leeches to the temples, purgatives and antimonial mixtures were in most cases quite sufficient. General blood-letting was seldom had recourse to, except in some plethoric subjects which not often appear in our On the whole, the treatment of the various forms of fever depended on the exigencies of each case. The list of remedies used to bring them to a successful issue was not very numerous. The proper selection, however, and combination of these according to circumstances, required often the utmost care and vigilance. bilious fever was frequently met with last year in our wards, particularly in autumn. These sporadic cases were not generally very dangerous and seldom proved fatal. When this fever rages as an Epidemic, particularly in Southern Latitudes, the result is very different. In a few of the most severe cases which appeared here, the premonitory symptoms exhibited great lassitude and nausea, dull pains in the back and limbs, and feetid breath. These were soon followed by sharp headache, vertigo, and vomiting. The stools were frequently dark and bilious, the tongue covered with a yellowish mucus, and sometimes furred; the conjunctiva commonly of a yellowish

hue; the Epigastrium and Hypochondrium exhibiting tenderness on pressure. The early and moderate discharge of the morbid secretions from the intestinal canal was the first step to a favourable issue. The vital power had necessarily to be supported in the latter stage. warm countries and marshy situations, where this fever is Endemic, it is well known to be a formidable scourge. But even here it has been in some years Epidemic, would be a useless undertaking to attempt an explanation of this or indeed of the appearance or decline of any other Epidemic; as for instance measles, small pox, influenza, or scarlatina. Meteorological tables throw little or no light on this subject, as it does not appear that the world has improved in knowledge of this matter from the careful study of the minutely constructed tables. Were we to theorize on the various causes which occasionally give rise to Epidemics, the electric state of the atmosphere and earth would certainly appear to be one of the most prominent, as the health of all organized beings is intimately connected with the electric fluid,

The few preceding remarks on prevalent fevers apply to those in their simple character. The fact, however, undoubtedly is, that a large proportion of these were complicated more or less with some local affection, most commonly of the lungs or digestive organs. In the young and robust, inflammatory action was sometimes severe, but very seldom resisted long the antiphlogistic measures promptly taken. The great majority were of a chronic nature. When the lungs were the seat of the

complaint, the stethescope often shewed hepatization, the result of former attacks preventing a sufficient oxydation of the blood. In a much greater number, the secretion of viscid mucus was excessive, threatening asphyxia from the accumulation in the air vessels. Chronic affections of the stomach and liver were generally tedious but not so frequent. Diarrhosa from ulceration of the mucous membrane proved fatal in a few cases. On a strict analysis of the fatal cases which occurred last year in the Hospital, a large proportion of the deaths arose from chronic complications with fever. A superficial observer examining them in the last stage might possibly come to the conclusion that they were never fit subjects for Corkstreet Hospital. This would be a grievous mistake. These patients were as liable to the attacks of fever as any others, and from the state of their health incurred often more danger. They exhibited on admission the usual symptoms of the prevalent continued fever, from which they ordinarily recovered before the local affections made their appearance. Had they remained in their crowded and ill ventilated dwellings, it is probable the synchoid fever under which they laboured would assume a malignant or typhoid form.

The value of Cork-street Hospital can not fairly be appreciated by merely calculating the number of patients dismissed cured. A much greater number of lives is saved by checking the spread of contagious or epidemic fever.

Variola has not this year been as prevalent as in some

preceding years, but during the last four months about a dozen of bad confluent cases were admitted.

The few cases of measles and scarlatina which were treated in our wards were of a mild and favourable character.

The writer of these general remarks intended at first to add a detailed report of some cases which fell under his care. The treatment, however, was so varied under the different circumstances of age, sex, constitution, and previous habits, that the selection of cases extended to a greater number than he expected. He has therefore on the present occasion declined to annex them to this report, lest the addition might be considered too long or unnecessary.

P. HARKAN, M.D.

LEGACIES

MAY BE BEQUEATHED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

"I give and bequeath to the Treasurer of the House of Recovery, in Cork-street, Dublin, the sum of (in trust) to be applied towards the benevolent purposes of the Institution."