

House of Recovery Cork Street Fever Hospital


Annual Report and Physicians Report 1809.

The 1809 report goes into considerable detail on the types of fever treated in the hospital. The report also mentions the ongoing controversy over the use of inoculation to treat Cow Pock. In Dublin, in 1804, the Cow Pock Institution was founded to advance the use of this vaccination. Its acceptance was however slow 'due to the 'prejudice of some members in the higher ranks and of vast numbers in the lower orders'. This report referred to those who ignored it as 'stupidly culpable, nay guilty'.

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FEVER HOSPITAL
CORK STREET.

Reports
and other
Documents
relating to
The Fever Hospital
and
House of Recovery
Cork Street
Dublin

From the Commencement, to 4 January 1818

Collected by J. L. Maguay

and when he is no more, let the Book
be sent to the Managing Committee.

A. D. 1819

INSTITUTION

FOR

Administering Medical Aid

TO THE

Sick Poor,

AND

ASSISTING THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES

WITH THE

Necessaries of Life during Sickness ;

AND FOR

PREVENTING THE SPREADING

OF

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.



D U B L I N :

PRINTED BY DOWNES AND REILLY,

WHITEFRIAR-STREET.



1810

Institution for the Relief of the Sick Poor, &c.



THE Committee, in again addressing the Subscribers and Public in behalf of the above most necessary and extensively useful Institution, beg leave to remark, that the statement now submitted to their consideration, proves that a very small balance remains in the hands of their Treasurer, to provide for the immediate and unavoidable demands of the Establishment.

They have also to observe, that the increase of their expenditure for the last two years, will make further benefactions absolutely necessary, to enable the Committee to conduct the Institution in that extensively useful manner in which it has hitherto been managed.

The Committee have this year to regret the resignation of their Apothecary, an useful and meritorious Officer, who has served the Institution with credit for above thirteen years. His known merit having procured him offers which rendered it inconsistent with his interest longer to remain in the establishment, on such a Salary as the Funds of the Charity would afford a person filling his department.

The Committee have in contemplation the revision of the General Rules, in hopes still to amend them, as the result of their
experience

experience may dictate, and shall particularly apply themselves to the perfecting what may properly be termed the *working* of the Establishment.

The simple consideration of the numbers relieved through the poorest and most unhealthy parts of the City, where they are visited by men of professional skill, and supplied with all proper assistance, preventing their suffering either by the pretended remedies of the ignorant, or being forced to purchase medicines when their health denies them the power of procuring bread.—The Committee trust that such considerations will be sufficient for the Public to afford that aid to the present Establishment, which will prove to the Sick Poor, that their distresses are not overlooked by their more fortunate fellow-citizens.

The Committee can, therefore, with resumed confidence again appeal to a generous Public—(*Generous*, whenever the calls of Charity are concerned,) and which they do with an assurance to them and the present Subscribers that, the most minute attention is paid to every charge of expenditure.

COMMITTEE FOR 1810.

- Joseph Pim, 15, *Usher's-island*.
Nathaniel Williams, 33, *Cole-alley*,
Pat. M'Manus, 35, *New-Market*.
Randall M'Donnell, *Allen's-court*.
Robert Vickers, 74, *Francis-street*.
Thomas Richardson, 56, *Bolton-street*.
William English, 14, *Meath-street*.
Corry Fowler, *Camden-street*.
John Barrington, *Bellview*.
Stephen Dalton, 27, *Coombe*.
Samuel Bewley, 72, *Meath-street*.
William Harding, 2, *Corn-market*.
George Maquay, 20, *Stephen's-green*, Treasurer,
John L. Maquay, 20, *Stephen's-green*.
Arthur Guinness, *James's-gate*.
Robert Fayle, 65, *Thomas-Street*.
John David La Touche, 4, *Mount-street*.
William Barrington, *Meath-street*.
Luke White, 6, *Gardiner's-row*.
Thomas Gibbons, 12, *Meath-street*.
Edward Swanwick, *Capel-street*.
Samuel Jessop, *James's-street*.
Joseph Hone, 36, *Harcourt-street*.
Edward Allen, 22, *Upper Bridge-street*.
Richard O'Brien, 36, *High-street*.
John Hone, 20, *Gt. George's-street, North*.
John Patten, 6, *Batchelor's-Walk*.
Leland Crosthwait, jun. 61, *Fleet-street*.
Peter La Touche, jun. *Stephen's-green*.
Alexander Maguire, 154, *King-street, North*.

*An Account of the Income and Expenditure of the
Families from 1st November,*

EXPENDITURE.

			£.	s.	d.
Distribution to Sick Poor	-	-	28	12	10
Medicines	-	-	244	11	0
Stationary	-	-	30	1	7
Contingencies	-	-	8	2	4
Coals and Candles	-	-	15	17	10
Utensils for wear and tear	-	-	1	19	8
Furniture for ditto	-	-	4	5	7
Repairs and alterations	-	-	34	9	9½
Rent for one year	-	-	40	0	0
Salaries	-	-	292	3	8
			<hr/>		
			700	4	3½
			<hr/>		

BELONGING TO

In Treasurer's hands	-	-	19	17	10½
In Henry Harris's do. as Collector	-	-	5	13	9
Medicines valued at	-	-	22	4	7½
Furniture ditto	-	-	47	1	6½
Utensils	-	-	21	16	6
Ballast Office Debentures	-	-	1097	4	8½
			<hr/>		
			1213	19	0
			<hr/>		

*Institution for Relief of the Sick Poor and their
1808, to 1st November, 1809.*

INCOME.

	£.	s.	d.
Subscriptions received in the year 1809	507	19	9
Donations in ditto	18	4	0
Interest on Ballast Office Debentures	66	0	0
Stock decreased this year	108	0	6
	<u>700</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

DUE BY THE INSTITUTION:

For Salaries to the Medical Officers, Apothecary, and Register	47	18	4
Medicines to Boileau Sons and George	23	7	0
Half a year's rent to Robert Bond	20	0	0
Neat Property of the Institution	1122	13	8
	<u>1213</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>0</u>
Patients admitted since the commencement	74,988		
Of whom have been admitted within the last year	8,069		

*Signed by Order of a General Meeting of Subscribers,
6th December, 1809.*

RICHARD O'BRIEN, CHAIRMAN.

Subjoined,

IS A

R E P O R T

OF ONE OF THE

PHYSICIANS.

MEDICAL REPORT.

Physicians.

{ Doctor DUANY,
— CARROLL,
— LEE,
— LITTON,
— BLENNERHASSETT.

Surgeon, SAMUEL WILMOT,
Apothecary, RICHARD ASTON,

Register and Collector } HENRY HARRIS.
of Subscriptions,

List of Diseases from the 1st of January 1809, to December 1810.

Vertigo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Prolapsus ani	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Psora	-	-	7	-	-	5	6	-	6	2	5	6	4	13	54
Ptyalismus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Rachitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Raucedo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Rheumatismus Cron.	-	-	23	18	18	10	13	13	18	16	19	19	31	19	217
Schirrus	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scrophula	-	-	1	2	-	-	3	1	4	3	3	6	-	-	23
Syphilis	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
Spasmi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
Stillicidium urinæ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Tænia lata	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Tenesmus	-	-	1	-	3	7	10	17	-	1	2	2	3	-	46
Tinea Capitis	-	-	3	-	3	-	6	1	3	-	1	5	1	3	26
Trismus	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Tussis	-	-	57	75	73	71	70	31	36	38	64	56	32	60	663
Vermes	-	-	20	4	7	8	12	6	7	13	11	16	3	8	115
Vertigo	-	-	10	7	1	1	6	11	2	2	3	5	-	2	50
Vomitus	-	-	1	2	3	5	7	11	2	2	2	1	5	2	43
CHRONIC	-	-	384	355	424	342	418	283	356	297	277	361	365	322	4179
ACUTE	-	-	306	281	258	259	322	258	270	271	255	271	207	174	3132
MEDICAL	-	-	690	636	682	601	735	541	626	568	532	632	572	496	7311
SURGICAL	-	-	51	52	78	57	75	72	53	67	66	64	73	70	781
GRAND TOTAL	-	-	744	688	760	658	810	613	679	635	598	696	645	566	8092

THIS view exhibits to us a decrease of ninety-two below the number of our Patients for the last year.—The prevalence of the two great epidemics of the year 1808, Dysentery and Measles, will sufficiently account for the decrease on our books for the following one.—The number of Patients labouring under Dysentery, fell short of the preceding year by 190, whilst the number of Measles, the prevailing epidemic of 1809, was also exceeded by that of 1808.—We may therefore calculate on our numbers not falling short of 8100 in any future year. The character of the Institution seems to have arrived at its height, and any great increase in our numbers will probably arise from the influence of some prevailing epidemic, or some state of weather favouring some particular class of diseases.

It is quite foreign to the design of this Report to object to the division of diseases here adopted, or to attempt any improvement in their arrangement. The Writer will confine himself solely to a few observations on the most striking features of those diseases which occurred the most frequently, and which were marked by any striking peculiarity of character. From the nature of the materials with which he is supplied, and the great preparatory labour that would be required for the construction of a work that could be read with interest by Medical Men, it cannot be expected that a Physician to an Institution that comprehends so large a portion of the population of Dublin and in the service of which so great a share of his time is employed, should do more than what is here proposed.

Measles may be considered as one of the epidemic diseases of Dublin, for the years 1808 and 1809.—It commenced earlier than usual in the Summer of the former year, and did not begin to decline as soon as it commonly does, in the succeeding one. It set in with symptoms more than ordinarily severe, and was more than usually fatal in its termination.—The dreadful accounts however of its ravages in other places, lead us rather to be thankful for its comparative mildness in the metropolis.

In Infants and Children under the age of six, convulsions frequently occurred after the violent inflammatory symptoms had subsided, and were the immediate cause of death in the only two fatal cases that came under the observation of the Writer.—A Dysenteric purging sometimes supervened at the same period of the disease, and proved fatal to many.

It did not appear that the disease, thus violent in its nature, was, according to the usual proportion, followed by those very distressing, and very often dangerous consequences, which we so often meet with, such as sore eyes, inflamed eyelids, enlarged glands, and other scrofulous appearances; teasing and long continued coughs, and pulmonary consumption, &c.—Whether this circumstance is attributable to the nature of the prevailing epidemic, or to the more free application of the evacuant plan, I cannot determine—but the happy effects of this mode of treatment were strikingly observable. In one Child, two years and an half old, a very hurried and laborious respiration, violent cough and fever, not yielding to the milder mode of blisters and purgatives, I had recourse to the lancet three different times, and each bleeding was almost immediately followed by a remission of the symptoms,

which

which were at length entirely removed. In this case, as in many others, there was occasion to suspect that the efforts of the Physician were counteracted by the mistaken kindness of the Parents who too often forced the little sufferer to partake of that beverage which is most grateful to themselves, but which is most destructive in the Measles.

The proportion of Small Pox exceeded that of last year, and prevailed to a much greater extent than was known at the Institution, as few applied but in cases of urgent danger, fearing a just reprimand for their neglect of availing themselves of that most valuable preventive, the Cow Pox, a discovery that appears to be a Gift from Heaven to lessen the load of misery intailed on man, and for which a grateful world should bow to its bestower in reverence and love. The prejudices however of some persons in the higher ranks, and of vast numbers in the lower orders of life, have not as yet yielded to the voice of truth and of conviction.—Like all other improvements in the science of medicine, the Cow Pock is slow in its progress, but must triumph in the end—it is undermining, and must ultimately overturn one of the most destructive maladies that has afflicted and depopulated the world. That one, or two, or a dozen cases of its failure, however respectably attested, should have occurred, is surely no argument against its general utility. If it has succeeded in any one instance, why will not a Parent give his Child a chance of its salutary influence—but, if in opposition to one example of its failure, it has succeeded in 10,000, how stupidly culpable, nay guilty, are those who neglect it.

The number of Patients in contagious Fevers last year, was less by 104, than in the preceding one; and it is no forced inference that the great prevalence of this malignant distemper, and its necessary mortality will continue to decline with the increasing confidence of the people in that great and valuable Institution, the HOUSE OF RECOVERY, in Cork-street. The reception of Patients in Intermittent Fever into that Hospital considerably diminished the number that applied to our Institution—we had however, a sufficient number to establish its epidemic prevalence. It did not fall to my lot to meet any thing peculiar in its character, and therefore it did not require any thing new in its treatment. A majority of those I saw were in cellars, and the removal of them into higher apartments, where it was practicable, was attended with the best effects—I met no case that did not yield to the ordinary remedies,

Inflammatory affections of the chest prevailed in a much larger proportion this year than the last, and form about a seventeenth part of the whole catalogue of diseases. The Pectoral complaints, independent of Catarrh, Measles, and Hooping Cough, amount to 2185; and when we consider the situation of the Poor in the Liberty, this vast proportion will not surprise us. Ill supplied with clothes and food, their habitations badly sheltered from the inclemencies of a variable Winter; and many of them from their occupations peculiarly liable to suffer from those sudden vicissitudes of weather, to save them from which, as well as to endeavour to forget the many ills of poverty and wretchedness, they have recourse to the dram-shop and the ale-house—'tis rather a matter of surprise that their numbers are not greater.

Perhaps

Perhaps there is not in the entire range of medical practice, a more striking instance of the good resulting from the timely interposition of the Physician, than in inflammation of the lungs. We have seen a poor sufferer panting for breath, labouring under the most excruciating pain, tightness across the chest, restlessness, and distress, almost instantaneously relieved by a copious bleeding, and the symptoms gradually subside without the further application of remedies—whilst in others repeated bleeding was found necessary, together with the common auxiliaries of blisters, purgatives, and expectorants. It has never occurred to the writer to have met with a case of a young subject having suffered from the too copious extraction of blood in this complaint, whilst he has met with one man whose death he attributes to the ignorance and obstinacy of his friends, in resisting his desire to have him bled a fourth time. In this case, too, a quarter of a grain of Tartarite of Antimony in six ounces of an expectorant mixture excited vomiting which probably aggravated the symptoms. It is perhaps a dangerous practice to use this salt in any quantity in this disease.

We meet no disease amongst the lower orders of life more fatal in its termination, or more embarrassing to the practitioner, than *Peripneumonia Notha*. It appears very frequently, both from the circumstances which produce it, and the symptoms that attend it, to be no more than a *Catarrh* attacking persons at a certain period of life, extending its influence to the lungs themselves, and there exciting a secretion of *Mucus*, which is discharged into the air cells, and from thence spit up, but which often accumulates to such a degree as totally to impede respiration.—In such cases, we sometimes find a quick, full, hard pulse, florid countenance

tenance, furred tongue, with hurried and oppressed respiration.— Here it would seem that the lancet would afford the most certain means of relief, and the practice has sometimes succeeded; but perhaps has, as least as often, aggravated those alarming symptoms by increasing the tendency to the secretion of that fluid, the accumulation of which produces all the effects of inflammation, but cannot be met by the same remedies.—The treatment I have found most successful, was repeated blistering, emetics, and expectorants, together *with strict attention to the state of the Bowels.*

Ophthalmia prevailed to a great degree in the Summer months, and to such a state of violence in some as to require general blood-letting, and in many, the opening of the temporal artery, which was found a valuable remedy, and if more frequently employed, would probably prevent the permanent weakness and sometimes total loss of sight that often follow this inflammation.

The three cases of Petechiæ Sine Febre, came under the observation of the Writer, who met three others also in private practice during the year 1809. The pathology of this disease is but little known, and is well worthy of attention. It is however only to be observed here, that in all, a very striking connection was noticed between the bowels and skin. Swelled belly, costiveness, paleness of the skin, and all the signs of a languid circulation, were observable in all, and the treatment by active purgatives, diaphoretic and tonic remedies was uniformly successful.

The two cases of White Blisters were of a mild kind, and yielded to Calomel; the red Precipitate and Citron Ointments, with warm bathing.

Phlegmasia Dolens, or the swelled leg, is a rare disease—only one appearing on our books within the last year. It is a most painful and distressing complaint—and there is, perhaps, none that has a more peculiar or more irresistible claim on the attention of the humane Physician.—It is exclusively the disease of females, and attacks them, too, at a time when they have already had a grievous portion of pain and suffering, and when the almost exhausted frame calls for rest, and requires the undivided care and tenderness of all around to support and to recruit it. Three cases came under the care of the Writer within the last year, none of which, (as far as could be collected from the attendants,) was attended by any circumstance during the delivery which could give cause to expect the supervention of so painful a disease.—Physicians have not agreed as to its causes, though they pretty nearly coincide in their practice in removing it. It will be sufficient here to relate the appearances as they occurred :—In two, on the 13th, and one on the 14th day after delivery—the calf of the leg began to inflame and swell, with shooting pains up to the inguinal glands, following the course of the lymphatics, and in the space of twenty-four hours, the whole leg and thigh was swoln to a large size, the skin shining, tense, pale, and elastic.—Those symptoms were accompanied by extraordinary depression of spirits and debility, with a peculiar expression of countenance not unlike that of one sinking in Gangrene.—In the three, the bowels were constipated.—A large blister was applied as near the inguinal glands as possible, and another on the calf of the leg—the discharge from which was kept up for a few days, the bowels

were

were opened chiefly by Cream of Tartar, whilst the strength and spirits were supported by bark, wine, and cordials.—In a few days the swelling subsided, and did not return.—In one, the swelling within a few hours left the leg first affected, and seized on the other which was treated in a similar manner with similar success.

In the month of December last, I was called on to see a young woman immediately after having swallowed, (by mistake for a dram,) about an ounce of vitriolic acid.—She had poured into a tumbler glass containing the acid, about half an ounce of spirits, and drank off the whole. I found her writhing with pain; vomiting almost incessantly—the stomach so irritable and tender as not to allow the weight of the bed-cloths, her mouth and fauces inflamed and excoriated, pulse very quick and feeble, and in short, labouring under all the symptoms of violent inflammation of the stomach.—I directed large draughts of water to be taken, while a solution of carbonate of Soda was preparing, took twenty ounces of blood, had hot fomentations applied, and a blister to the region of the stomach. On visiting her in the evening, I found her but little better, repeated the bleeding, and ordered an enema.—She was bled a third time on the following morning, and again on the evening of that day, drinking in the mean time, quantities of barley-water and the Soda Solution.—On the third day, the symptoms began to remit; all appearance of inflammation had subsided, but vomiting continued—this yielded to opiates, and on opening the bowels freely she completely recovered.

The prevailing custom of taking in large draughts of oil, in cases of this nature, appears to me injudicious.—It must be inadequate, for we know that, out of the stomach, oils not only do not mingle with the acids, but produce a violent action by decomposing them; and pernicious, by preventing the use of the most effectual diluent, water, which unites in all proportion with the acids, and is ever at hand.

The habit of drinking strong drinks that prevails amongst the poorer orders, whilst it draws them away from the practice of their trades during the time of indulgence, and incapacitates them from renewing their labours with suitable vigour on the following days; facilitates also the approach of disease, aggravates its progress, and retards its cure.—The influence of this pernicious habit too, on the morals of the poor of Dublin, is melancholy to reflect on. It is as far as comes under my observation, directly the cause of all their poverty and wretchedness, and indirectly of all their vice—and it is indeed to be lamented, that no adequate remedy has been discovered against this very alarming, widely extended, and increasing evil. Its causes are to be sought in early habits, bad example, and defective education—and perhaps it is only in preventing and counteracting those early deficiencies, that its antidote is to be found.—Much, however may be done in palliation—they are not to be deserted because they are unfortunate—the more of the scanty earnings of the father that is wasted in riot and drunkenness; the more afflicting are the privations, the more heart-rending the cries, and
more

more interesting the appeal of their wretched wives and their little children, to the understandings, as well as to the hearts of those on whom God has pleased to bestow the comforts, the conveniencies, and the luxuries of life; of the wise, the affluent, and the good.

January 30th, 1810.

*G. LEE,
106, Grafton-street.*