House of Recovery Cork Street Fever Hospital Annual Report and Physicians Report 1812

The admission figures show a decrease on 1811 but the report indicates that the hospital is no wiser as to what caused the 1811 epidemic.

Attached to the this report is a letter signed by four of the physicians disputing the efficiency of blood letting which a Dr. Mills had introduced to the hospital.

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FEVER HOSPITAL CORK STREET.

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

ANNUAL

REPORT

OF THE

MANAGING COMMITTEE

OF THE

HOUSE OF RECOVERY,

AND

FEVER-HOSPITAL

IN

Cork-Street, Dublin,

For the Year ending 4th January, 1812.



PRINTED BY CHARLES DOWNES,

Annual Report of the Managing Committee of the House of Recovery, and Fever Hospital, in Cork-Street, for the year ending the 4th January, 1812.

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one about the results are follows

The Committee have now to lay before the Subscribers and the Public, the state of the Hospital and its
accounts for the year ending 4th January, 1812. It will
appear from a comparison between this statement and that
for the preceding year, that the admissions have been
296 less in the past year than in the former one, though
many more than they were prior to the great extension
of disease that occurred in the summer of 1810, and which
was noticed in their last report. The great increase of
expence remains in consequence of the demands for admissions to the Hospital continuing, and the expenditure
will be found to exceed the income by the sum of
£806 15s. 9d. part of which being for completing New
Buildings, may not be expected soon to recur, and it is

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hoped

hoped the income will be so increased as to meet the deficiency.

The Committee think it adviseable to repeat that no recommendation is necessary to entitle to admission, but applications for admission must be left at the Letter-box at the eastern entrance to the Hospital before half past nine o'clock in the morning, in order that the applicants may be visited by the extern physician in such time, as that those whose diseases are ascertained to be fit for admission, may be brought to the Hospital on that day .-It is the rule of the house that no patient can be admitted until visited by one of the Physicians of the Hospital, nor in any other manner than in the Hospital Carriage, which is on springs, and the Patients are placed therein, en a Bed, in a recumbent posture. This sto 2' M. or marked think southly bear Mill Mill and the

the total page to the test of the test the test of the

SOUTH SERVICE HOLD WELL STORY VER

Cork-Street, 30th January, 1812.

| Admitted from 14th May, 1804, to 4th January, 1812, inclusive | 0407 |
|--|-----------------|
| | 9195 |
| Discharged cured - 8389 | |
| Died 740 | |
| Remain in Hospital 5th January, | TO THE |
| 1812 66 | |
| A Service and Clouded Description in the service of | |
| 9195 | |
| O Charles of the state of the s | |
| In the Hospital 5th January, 1811 - | 38 |
| Admitted from 5th January, 1811, to 4th January, | |
| 1812, inclusive | 1478 |
| | _ |
| | 1516 |
| | |
| Discharged cured - 1337 | |
| Died 113 | AN NA |
| Remain in Hospital 5th January, | |
| 1812 66 | |
| | STREET, STREET, |
| 1516 | |
| | |

Account of Income and Expenditure of the House Dublin, for one Year ending

| | | +. | S. | d. |
|--|-----------|-------------|-----|-----|
| To Rent and Taxes of Premises - | S agrant | A Printed N | 6 | |
| Maintenance of Patients and Servants | - | 927 | 11 | 10± |
| House-bedding, Furniture and Clothing, and tear | wear - | 249 | 16 | 51 |
| Salaries of Officers, Nurses and Servants | -0.4 | 877 | 5 | 61 |
| Fuel, Soap and Candles - | | 364 | 0 | 1 |
| Printing, Stationary and Advertising | | 86 | 13 | 0 |
| Medicines, including Wine and Spirits | • | 203 | 17 | 5 |
| Incidental expenses, including expense of | Horse | 83 | 0 | 6 |
| Whitewashing Habitations of the Poor | - | 87 | 10 | 0 |
| Repairs | - | 91 | 14 | 12 |
| New Buildings | - | 172 | 6 | 4 x |
| . 1 200 | DIE | 3224 | - 1 | 81 |

Account of Property of the Institution, exclusive

| Par 619 | | | £. | s | d. |
|--------------------------------|---|---|------|----|----|
| To Furniture and House-bedding | - | | 1578 | 11 | 5 |
| Clothing | | | 74 | 8 | 6 |
| Government Stock | - | 4 | 1306 | 9 | 4 |
| Collector in his Hands - | - | | 4 | 8 | 6 |
| | | 1 | | | |

2963 17 9

of Recovery and Fever Hospital, Cork-Street, 4th of January, 1812.

| 25 | with rider that Percential Percent | £. | s. | d. |
|----|--|-------------------|-----------|-----|
| B | y Parliamentary Grant, Net | 999 | 8 | 0 |
| 01 | Subscriptions | 1171 | 7 | 101 |
| | Donations | 102 | 17 | 6 |
| | Amount of Hay and Grass, deducting Expenses | 35 | 11 | 10 |
| | Interest on Government Stock | 59 | 5 | 75 |
| | Interest from a Fund raised for relief of Dis- tressed Manufacturers given tempo- | inellik 11 dub | | |
| 7 | rarily to this Hospital | 48 | 15 | 15 |
| | Excess of Expenditure above Income - | 806 | 15 | -9 |

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cranorary Christofaus :-

George Magan, W. D.

Richard Cample, M. D.

I oseph Lynch, M. D.

Samuel Wilmot,

Whitevallers, and O and west

in encouvert at the Hospital:

3224 1 Si

Pesari, Salter, M. D.

A DE DESCRIPTION OF THE

of Buildings and Premises, 5th of January 1812.

By Treasurers due them - 615 0 7½

Net Property of the Institution - 2348 17 1½

Committee:

Edward Allen,
John Barrington,
Samuel Bewley,
Thomas Crosthwait,
William Disney,
Thomas Disney,
William English,
Arthur Guinness,
William Harding,
John Hone,
Joseph Hone,

John David La Touche,
Peter La Touche,
Randall Mac Donnell,
George Maquay,
John Leland Maquay,
John Orr,
James M. Pike,
George Renny,
Edward Swanwick,
Luke White,

languable side or view

Permanent Physicians:

Francis Barker, M. D. William Stoker, M. D. George Hagan, M. D. Richard Gamble, M. D.

Temporary Physicians:

Thomas Mills, M. D.

Joseph Lynch, M. D.

Surgeon,
Register and Purveyor,
Apothecary,
Collector,
House-keeper,

Samuel Wilmot, Wm. Richardson, John Nichols, Henry Harris, Jane Leedom,

Servants usually employed at the Hospital:

Three Porters, two Whitewashers, nine Nurses, and seven Female Servants.

ANNUAL

MEDICAL REPORT

OF THE

HOUSE OF RECOVERY,

AND

FEVER-HOSPITAL

IN

Cork-Street, Dublin,

BY

ONE OF THE PHYSICIANS.



DUBLIN:
PRINTED BY CHARLES DOWNES,
WHITEFRIAR-STREET.

1812.

MEDICAL REPORT.

The existence of Febrile Contagion, and the susceptibility of almost all mankind, if placed within its sphere of action, to be affected by its baleful influence, being no longer questioned by any person who has sufficiently considered the subject, it might be justly deemed superfluous to offer in this, the seventh annual Medical Report from the Fever Hospital and House of Recovery, any argument in proof of the utility and necessity of that Establishment; besides the simple statement, that it has in less than eight years, received into its wards 9177 persons* in contagious Fever, from situations most favourable to the indefinite extension of Infection, where often to complete the sad catalogue of the accompaniments of indigence, the anxious parent, the only support of a numerous family, oppressed by over-exertion sickens first, and debility and dejection being

^{*}Alarge proportion of those persons were affected with other diseases besides Fever, of which diseases, those of the Lungs and Liver were most frequent; but these Reports being for the public in general, and on a particular disease, preclude minute detail of such combinations; it is in contemplation, however, to take advantage of the numerous and important facts our registered cases contain, in a future publication, more purely medical.

being powerfully predisposing causes, the growing distemper a seizes all around in rapid succession.

Previous, however, to entering on an account of the occurrences of the Hospital in the past year, in continuance of the
plan of the former Reports; it may be useful to advert briefly
to such of the properties of contagion, as may assist to explain how our system of prevention produces its effects,
and to point out how it is rendered less efficacious by
causes which it cannot remedy, and perhaps may lead to
other useful applications.

The opinion that human effluvia can propagate Fever, only at very short distances from the body of the infected person, has been ably advocated by Doctor Haygarth, one of the most accurate and successful investigators of the laws of contagion, and he has supported it by such a well arranged series of evidence, that little doubt of the fact can remain. The principle, however, if well founded, is of so much practical utility, that when testimony serving to corroborate it can be obtained, it should not be withheld from publicity; as such the following statement is given, that though a large proportion of the persons ill of Fever who apply, reside in houses in which there are many distinct families, separated only by slight partitions, with stair-cases common to all; and though it has been an object of the Reporter's attention and enquiry since the Hospital opened, if Infection was communicated to the inmates of the adjacent apartments, no instance of it has occurred to him, or to any of his colleagues with whom he has conversed on the subject, except where direct exposure to the miasmata, arising either from the body of the sick person, or the clothes which were some time in contact with it could be straced.

The practical inference from this law of infection may enable the visitors of the sick to perform their respective duties with safety to their own persons; and in its cautious application to the arrangements necessary to check the progress of Fever in large families, public schools, and work-houses, may prevent much unnecessary ahrm to the healthy, and much distress which the sick would otherwise suffer by removal to a distance.

Another property of Contagion of no less importance, though not equally understood, is that when first generated, whether from ill ventilated and crowded habitations, where persons are kept for a long time without the advantages of open air, as in prisons and holds of ships; or from putrifying collections of animal and vegetable matter, it is in its nascent state capable of acting in very extensive space, of which also the extern duty of the Physicians of our Hospital affords numerous proofs, as they frequently see many families in distinct buildings, and confined situations, attacked for several months successively with the same symptoms of Fever, of which some neighbouring collection of filth is generally found to be the

to souther the character of

common origin. Similar observations have been made in large old houses inhabited by many families, where the depot for every nuisance was nearly in the centre, so that the putrifying vapour pervaded all the dwelling.

The Practical conclusions from these facts, will assist to direct that general co-operation with us, of a well arranged Medical Police, which is necessary to give our system full efficacy, and whilst it moderates the ardent expectations of the Philanthropist, it will correct the cooler calculations of the Political economist on the effect of our system of prevention alone, by pointing out to him the causes which obstruct it.

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In turning to the occurrences of the Hospital for the past year, the most striking and satisfactory which our Registry presents, is the very great reduction in the list of patients received, and also of those previously ill in the spartments of the sick, which will appear in the subjoined Table, in which is given a comparative view of the last three years, during which only, the establishment embraced the whole city, and may assist any reasoning applied to the subject:

| 1 | Years. | Total No. of Patients. | Contagious Fevers. | Scarlatina. | No. previously ill |
|---|--------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| I | 1809 | 1052* | 1036 | 16 | di sol and |
| I | 1810 | • 1774 | 1756 | ed) 181 (150 | 1004 |
| 1 | 1811 | 111471d T | 11 11470 Pur | professed ! | 285 |

It is probable that we have not yet sufficient data, to enable us to account satisfactorily for the extraordinary increase of febrile patients which appeared in the year 1810. nor the very great reduction exhibited by the Table in the subsequent year; the consideration of the following circumstances will however assist us to form more just conclusions than we otherwise could, from the mere numerical statement; first, that the growing notoriety of the House of Recovery, as well as the increasing confidence of the people, especially on the northern side of the Liffey, to which it had recently extended, must have had considerable influence in producing the increase of applications in the year 1810; and secondly, that this cause still continued though in a lessening degree, in the year 1811; and a much greater number of persons ill of Fever, were brought into

The difference in this report from that of the Committee, is in consequence of the Parliamentary year ending the 4th January, instead of the 31st December.

into the Hospital from remote parts of the country this year, than ever known at any former period, * and that but for these causes the reduction in the past year would have appeared much greater than is expressed by the numbers given in the Table.

Having premised thus far, it may be fairly inferred that whatever were the causes of the great excess of Fever in the year 1810, above other years, whether that the sources of Infection under some peculiar circumstances were more abundant, or that the excessive use of spirituous Liquors gave greater susceptibility to the poor, or that both causes combined, it is manifest that our system of prevention still gives constant proofs of its steady progress to the attainment of its object.

The proportion of males and females admitted this year, is nearly the same, in which from Doctor Whitelaw's survey, they appear to exist in Dublin, a fact important in so far as it tends to prove, that women and men are equally susceptible of Fever, and have equally availed themselves of the advantages of the Charity.

The mortality of this year, though less than in the two preceeding, coincides very nearly as well with

It appears that the number of persons brought from the country directly, and entered in our Registry under the denomination of Itinerants amounted to 98; it is probable, however, that this number would have been much greater, but that many got refuge for a short time in the houses of their Friends in Dublin, and therefore were classed amongst the residents in the City.

the general proportion of deaths, since the Hespital opened, as in the respective Mortality of the sexes; this will be seen more satisfactorily in the following Table.

| | ADI | MITTE | D. | Sell Com | DIED. | el cari |
|------------------------------|------|-------|------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Year. Males, Female Total. | | | | Males. | remales. | Total. |
| 1804 | 188 | 227 | 415 | 15 or 1 in 13½ | 14 or 1 in 131 | 29 or 1 in 14.2 |
| 1805 | 474 | 550 | 1024 | 40 or 1 in 1157 | 27 or 1 in 20 ½ | 67 or 1 in 15‡ |
| 1806 | 592 | 676 | 1271 | 65 or 1 in 9; | 38 or | 103 or 1 in 12 76 |
| 1807 | 505 | 595 | 1100 | 55 or 1 in 9,7 | 37 or in 16 1 | 92 or 1 in 1123 |
| 1808 | 512 | 559 | 1071 | 53 or 1 in 9 ₇₇ | 43 or 1 in 13 | 96 or 1 in 114 |
| 1809 | 461 | 590 | 1051 | 41 or 1 in 114 | 42 or 1 in 14 g | 83 or 1 in 12 5 5 |
| 1810 | 800 | 974 | 1774 | 71 or 1 in 1157 | 83 or / in 1181 | 154 or 1 in 1149 |
| 1811 | 685 | 786 | 1471 | 60 or 1 in 11,52 | 55 or in 14 1 5 | 115 or 1 in 12 17 5 |
| Fot: | 4220 | 4957 | 9177 | | 339 or 1 in 14 ² | 739 or 1 in 221 |

This table does not exhibit the mortality of Fever, in-

by other diseases, which were either from their nature or long neglect incurable before Fever supervened; some of the Facts developed are however too remarkable to be passed unnoticed, though perhaps to offer any explanation of them might be premature. The Variations observed in the mortality of different years appears to be almost entirely on the side of the females, whilst in the other sex it is found much greater and comparatively uniform; by comparing the years 1804 and 5, with those of 1809 and 10, this will appear more obvious, shewing, that as the proportion of admissions of females increased that of the deaths diminished. Besides the more temperate and less laborious habits of women, it is probable that their greater patience of mind, more pliant fibres, and above all, that provision which nature has made for them peculiarly, by which any deviation from health is frequently corrected, may contribute to the great difference in mortality constantly observed among men and women. It may be added, that as simple Fever, unattended by local affections, is more frequently observed in women than men; the mortality of Fever might be taken from that of the former, with perhaps considerable accuracy. 51 087

The effects of the season on the Epidemic, and the consequent forms which it assumes, are in general very similar in every year, and as these have been very accurately pourtrayed in the preceding Reports, the remarkable appearances alone in the Fever of the present year will be noticed.

In January we find the same extraordinary malignancy which characterized Fever in the latter part of the preceding year, and mingling with those inflammatory affections of the Lungs, which are always found prevalent amongst the laborious poor in the Winter months, produced a most fatal form of Epidemic, which although not unusual in the Hospital, had never been before so frequent, and hence the extraordinary mortality of that period. The attack in general commenced with well marked symptoms of acute inflammation of the Lungs, sometimes attended with those marks of debility which denote the presence of Typhus Fever; more frequently however this latter train of symptoms came on more insidiously on the third, fourth, or even so late as the eighth or ninth days; on this account, several of the patients had been bled freely before admission to the Hospital, having been supposed for several days to labour under Pectoral inflammation only, but such symptoms were soon succeeded by consequences which rendered farther experiments with that remedy unjustifiable. On the other hard the use of Wine, or such remedies as would counteract the debility produced by Typhus, was followed by almost immediate increase of the Pectoral affections, and also of high delirium, perhaps the consequence of the obstruction given to the return of blood from the head by the diseased state of the Lungs.

Thus forced to give up those remedies of established efficacy, in either of the diseases when distinct, which were now so unfortunately complicated, recourse was had to local Blood-letting by Cupping or Leeches, gentle Purgatives, and Stimulant Expectorants, and as the Typhoid or Inflammatory symptoms predominated, to vary the remedies; where the former prevailed, the Reporter has often seen the best effects from the use of Barm or Yeast; a remedy which he does not hesitate to recommend in a public Report of this kind, as he never has seen any bad consequence from its use.

Towards the middle of February the formidable combination was nearly dissolved; the distinct modifications of inflammatory and Typhoid symptoms admitting of the free application of their appropriate remedies. And though contagion became more active as the Spring approached, producing a greater increase of applications in March and April, than had been ever known in any corresponding Months, the Epidemic was comparatively mild.

were some firementally from

In May and June, Typhus Gravior again prevailed, accompanied by distressing bilious complaints; large Phlegmons were also frequently observed to form during Fever or Convalescence, on different parts of the Head, Trunk and Extremities, a Symptom which often attends Fevers of extraordinary malignancy; when these tumours disappeared

without suppuration, considerable derangement of some vital function frequently followed, but a favourable crisis generally succeeded their maturation. the office of the regulations, established to reader late

During July, August, September and October, the Fever was not marked by any occurrence requiring particular notice; but on the approach of winter, Pectoral and Bilious complaints, which are always at that Season prevalent amongst the poor of the Liberties, combined with Typhus in a degree almost as formidable as in the commencement of the year. Amongst its fatal effects we have to deplore the death of Doctor G. Lee, a young Physician, - Lee his Reference who, a short time before had been appointed one of the temporary Physicians of the Hospital, and who is said to in the Tolume have supposed that he caught his last illness by visiting a poor family, * ill of Fever previous to their admission; when probably ardent in contemplating the means of safety for another, he neglected those which might have secured his own; thus in the last act of his life giving an instance of his zeal in the pursuit of useful knowledge, and of a benevolent amiable disposition,

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Bear will be made

^{*} This Family consisted of a man and Wife, who were both admitted in the Hospital; he was aged about 68 years and she about 64, their symptoms were very similar and of the worst Typhoid Type, accompanied with severe pectoral and biliary affectune; recovery was long protracted, he having remained in the Hospital 40 days and she 39, when they were dismissed cured.

It is very gratifying to observe that of all the Nune and Servants employed at the Hospital, but two person were seized with fever in the course of this year, as it prove the efficacy of the regulations, established to render Infection inactive, as well as the strict attention with which they have been observed, and to every thinking humane mind, it must afford the purest satisfaction, that whilst these valuable person employed in the operative part, enjoyed immunity from Fever, as a consequent reward of the discharge of their duty they have also an incentive to future exertion.

To those who notice these short but faithful annals this year also exhibits accumulated evidence of the extensive efficacy of the Institution, in relieving the poor from calamity which overwhelms whole families, both with want and incapability of exertion, and in opposing the onlectain barrier to its inroads on the affluent: Thus rewarding the benevolent intention on which it was originally founded, with complete success, and like the genuine qualit of mercy,

second of the vely, Amazert its fatal effects we have

" It is twice blessed;

" It blesseth him that gives and him that takes."

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or were they promised by the members of methe

WILLIAM STOKER, M. I

TEVER-HOSPITAL, CORR STREET. ROM the extension of its Benefits and the increase of poverty, the Funds of this Hospital are at present inadequate to its maintenance. The last year's printed Report andounced this to the public,

and stated that there had been admitted during that period 2275 persons labouring under contagious feur, a number exceeding that of any former year by 499. Large contributions have been hitherto afforded by liberal individuals; these are still splicited; there is a source, however, which has yielded as yet but a scartly supply, and which ought to yield abundantly, that source is now imperiously called upset-it is the

Individual Annual Subscription of the Labolitance of Dublin. To many of these perhaps to may not be the one of that one a exists in their City an Hospital, well administered, into which all persons in contagious fever are not only admitted, but solicised to enter, and thereby are their homes and families gussided from

this direful scourge.

In policy then, surely this is worth a few guiness sounally; for if (as is apprehended) any exclusion become necessary through want of Punds, Servants must be the first debarred admittance, the labouring poor being the peculiar objects of this Hospital.

A Sub-Committee has been appointed to solicit Subscrip tions, and thus they do it-individual application is laborious, end irksome; this they cannot undertake -- but the heartfelt gratification which the Committee enjoy, from the superintendence of so much usefulness, they will not retinquish, while either means or hope support them.

It is requisted that Donations may be paid into the Bank of the Right Hon. David La Touche & Co. Treasurers; and that Annual Subscriptions be communicated and paid to any Mem-

ber of the Sub-Committee, viz .-

Samuel Bewley, Peter La Touche, jun and Arthur Guiness, John Leland Maquay. By Order,

WILLIAM RICHARDSON, Reg.

Cork-street, 29th Sept. 1815,

The following Donations the Committee are already enabled to acknowledge :-

| Joseph Goff, Esq | | £50 | 0 | 0 |
|--------------------------|---------|-----|---|---|
| John Leland Maquay, Esq. | | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Right Hon, Henry King | ••• | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| - I I I | | ra | ^ | - |

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place on the Bootestorn Strand. -mail out to hier estamm west a midner box distributed with fied, in the ruidst of a fine Demonac. The stiention is noest to beorthooth on oth mi encienals, svirustra ea flow en A tis object particularly, they have taken one of the most elewith a third Leveli be libral Pupils should be thereat. count themselves conscientiously of their duties. The doof some autorigst them, and in all, an unnifected, ardens zoak they will bring to their task much experience in the perthe They may, however, venture to say, without atrogance, on socioemist four encrosed it ign surrobad industrial tuo at to the comprising of the Individuals concerned in the

superior titles to support. nded scale, will be considered in this County, as possessing s their conviction, than an least Institution, on the same -xo of statison for oh your they do not hesitate to exideration the moral or the literary advantages peculiar to

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A LETTER

ADDRESSED TO THE

MANAGING COMMITTEE

OF THE

* FEVER HOSPITAL,

IN CORK-STREET,

BY THE

PERMANENT PHYSICIANS

TO THAT

ESTABLISHMENT,

ON THE

TREATMENT OF FEVER

BY

BLOOD-LETTING.

DUBLIN:

PRINTED BY GRAISBERRY & CAMPBELL, 10, BACK-LANE.

1813.

MANAGING COMMITTEE,

&c. &c. &c.

GENTLEMEN,

The following statements intended for immediate publication are most appropriately addressed to you. You are most competent to judge of their force and to attest their truth, as the documents on which they rest have been formed under your inspection, and are in your possession.

In the observations about to be submitted to you we disclaim all personal feeling and shall, as much as possible, avoid all personal remark; nor should we have deemed it incumbent on us thus to solicit your attention had not assertions been recently and publicly made tending to affect the interests of this institution as well as our professional character.

You need scarcely be reminded, gentlemen, that in consequence of the then unexampled increase of the number of applicants to the fever hospital you did on the 21st of June 1810 appoint Dr. Thomas Mills to assist as a temporary physician, in which capacity he acted during four months. Similar circumstances induced you again to call in his services in the month of January 1811 and in April 1812, which were continued during eight months. Of his medical practice he has published the result in a work professing to demonstrate the utility of general blood-letting as a remedy in fever.

On examining his book you will find that Dr. Mills has stated (on your authority) the gross number of deaths in the hospital during seven years and about eight months, to amount to about one-twelfth of the number of patients received, or the proportion of deaths to recoveries as one to eleven.*

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He has also stated that among the patients placed under his care and treated by blood-letting, at one period the average proportion of deaths to recoveries was less than one to twenty-three, † at another period less than one to twenty-eight, ‡ and consequently the total average proportion of deaths to recoveries, as one to twenty-five and a half nearly. He has deduced the following inferences, which we quote in his own words: "The follow-" ing advantages are to be derived from blood-letting, "viz. a diminution of the mortality of fever; the pre-

^{*} See Dr. Mills's Essay, &c. p. 2.

⁺ See his Book, page 220.

¹ See page 221.

" servation of the strength of the patient by the more " speedy and effectual removal of the disease," (see page 222 of his book.)

A reader of these statements and of the numerous cases which he has detailed, not having the leisure or opportunity requisite for minute investigation, might be led to conclude that Dr. Mills has been much more successful in the treatment of fever than the other physicians of the hospital, that he has lost by death but a twentyfifth of his fever patients, whilst his colleagues have lost of theirs a twelfth; and that his success has therefore exceeded that of the other physicians in more than a twofold proportion. This opinion once adopted would necessarily be followed by the belief that the disease was also rendered shorter and the patients strength less impaired by his than by other modes of practice. The obvious inference then from the whole would be that Dr. Mills's medical colleagues have been most strangely and culpably negligent in witnessing without adopting his plan of treatment.

Thus exposed to imputations which if established must render doubtful their competency to discharge the duties of physician in this great public institution, they feel themselves peculiarly called on to investigate and lay before you the state of facts, and they regret for the sake of the public at having to announce as the result of their inquiry, that Dr. Mills's mode of treatment has not been attended with more success than theirs or produced more frequent or more speedy recovery from fever.

mention with a mile concentrate which there of his coils

To prove this assertion they would first observe that the registry of patients, now extended to more than 12700 cases, shews, that recovery is much more frequent in one year than in another. Thus, in the year 1810 of the patients admitted there died a one-tenth, but in the year 1809,* one-thirteenth only. The proportion of deaths to recoveries varies also during different months of the same year. Thus, in the months of May, June, and July 1812, the proportion of fatal cases was one-fourteenth of the whole, but in the months of October, November, and December, of the same year, the proportion of fatal cases was one-thirteenth. Similar remarks apply to the duration of the disease which is variable in different years and seasons.

Hence it follows, that to deduce legitimately, that fevers have been rendered less fatal, or recovery accelerated by the system of blood-letting, as practised by Dr. Mills, the comparison should have been instituted between the success of that and other modes of treatment, during the same times, and that Dr. Mills should have compared the result of his practice either with that of his colleagues, or, if this mode had appeared to him invidious, with that of other methods of treatment as practised by himself, during the same times, instead of adopting statements which, even admitting them to be correct, are altogether inconclusive. This deficiency the physicians have undertaken to supply, and to the motives already assigned for this procedure they would add, their desire of investigating the merits of blood-letting as a general remedy in

The year preceding that of Dr. Mills's attendance.

fever, considering this an important medical question, capable of some elucidation from the practice lately adopted at the fever hospital.

With these views they proceed to explain the annexed tables. It should be observed that Dr. Mills practised blood-letting with a very large majority of his patients, and it has been asserted, we believe correctly, that at times nearly all his patients were blooded: by the other physicians, this remedy was employed but rarely; consequently the numerical statements contained in these tables will afford a proper estimate of the value of repeated general blood-letting compared with other modes of practice. In these tables all the patients treated by Dr. Mills and colleagues are given, together with the result of their cases during the different times of his attendance.

In column I. are given the different months of Dr. Mills's attendance. In column II. all the patients male or female treated by him, together with the event whether successful or otherwise, and on the same lines in col. III. a similar statement of all the patients treated by the other physicians during the same months. To save the trouble of calculation, the proportion of deaths to recoveries in each month among the patients of different sexes treated by Dr. Mills and the other physicians is given in column IV.; underneath the total result is given; and thus the reader can by inspection determine the merits of the different modes of practice, as it affected the proportional number of deaths during the whole or different periods of Dr. Mills's attendance. From this table it also becomes evident that the proportion of deaths to recoveries is

variable at different seasons, and this is the case when there is little variation in the mode of treatment, thus rendering doubtful any inferences deduced from varied methods of practice when not employed at the same times, and demonstrating that the system of comparison adopted by Dr. Mills is altogether fallacious.

It appears as the final result, that among the patients treated by blood-letting the proportion of deaths to recoveries was as 1 to 1149 and among those treated according to the more ordinary methods as 1 to 12495, a proportion differing from the former in no small degree, and justifying the conclusion, that the treatment of fever by small and repeated general detractions of blood, is either of little efficacy or injurious.

Thus they reply to the assertion "that the mortality in fever is diminished by blood-letting." To determine in what degree recovery has been accelerated by the practice, they have had recourse to the hospital records, which to them appear well adapted for this purpose. To understand how these can be applied to ascertaining the time of convalescence, it should be observed, that the number of days which each patient has remained in the sick wards, the convalescent wards, and in the whole hospital, is regularly entered in the hospital registry, consequently the average number of days during which any number of patients has remained in these wards during any required time, is a simple arithmetical question. This they have ascertained for the patients of Dr. Mills and his colleagues during the different months of his attendance, and given the results in the second table.

to distant.

The conclusion which follows from the latter inquiry is, that Dr. Mills's patients have remained in the hospital on an average 163 days, the patients of the other physicians' 173 days, a difference very slight, and though apparently in favor of blood-letting yet most probably arising not from this practice, but from Dr. Mills having had under his care a much larger proportion of male patients than the other physicians,* and these patients, from obvious reasons, are less disposed than the females to remain unnecessarily in the hospital after their recovery. Hence, the physicians infer that no sufficient evidence exists to justify Dr. Mills in the conclusion that recovery is accelerated, or the patients strength preserved by bloodletting; and it does not, from any other inquiry, appear that his were less liable to relapse than other patients, and in many instances they were observed to remain in the hospital in such states of debility as are usually consequent to the repeated detractions of blood.

It must add to the weight of the above conclusions to observe, that the data on which they depend have been furnished from the most authentic sources, namely, the diet tables, in which each physician enters daily the patients diet, and at the same time registers the date of admission and dismissal, the time of remaining in the different wards, along with the final event of each case, and the different parts of the system being so contrived as to check each other, an error in the tables can scarcely exist without detection.

divide police of the property and the of proceeding which

| | | Of Dr. Mills's Patients. age No. of days in different Wards, viz. | | | Of the other Physicians' Patients. Average No. of days in different Wards, viz. | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|-------|-----------------|--|-------------------|--|--|
| DATES. | In Fever Wards, | In Convalescent Wards, | | In Fever Wards. | In Convalencent Wards, | In whole Hospital | | |
| | Days, | Days, | Days, | Days. | Days. | Days. | | |
| 1810—July | 814 | 437 | 1257 | 1856 | 578 | 1936 | | |
| August | 1155 | 460 | 1647 | 10,76 | 4.79 4.773 | 15,16 | | |
| September | 1121 | 216 | 1417 | 8 8 6 | 4123 | 18,81 | | |
| 1811—January | 7,6 | 4.5 | 12,1 | 18,4 | 8,6 | 21,70 | | |
| 1812—May and June | 12 1 | 310 | 1511 | 10 90 20T | 4283 4787 | 15 197 | | |
| July | 1126 | 415 | 1613 | 9189 | 5 36 | 14225 | | |
| August | 127 | 659 | 18% | 10 % | 5,50 | 15,58 1738 | | |
| September | 1337 | 630 | 20,6 | 10,3 | 5 98 | 15,101 | | |
| October | 1220 | 547 | 1767 | 10153 | 6157 | 17/63 | | |
| November | 1175 | 8,00 | 1473 | 15,90 | 5 19 TTT | 20109 | | |
| December | 1255 | 369 | 1648 | 14 82 | 6777 | 20102 TT3 | | |
| Total | 11784 | 4487 | 16302 | 111925 | 5,645 | 17/011 | | |

To the above mentioned conclusions of Dr. Mills, and to these alone, we have endeavoured to direct your attention, and disagreeable as the necessity may be which has compelled us to unite in this statement, the magnitude of the mischief attendant on misrepresentation or error in medical inquiries more than outweighs the dislike we must naturally feel to become the instruments of detecting them, and we owe it to the public and to the profession, not to permit silence on our part to be interpreted into an admission of the truth of assertions so boldly put forward and so pertinaciously maintained.

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FRANCIS BARKER,
WILLIAM STOKER,
GEORGE HAGAN,
RICHARD GAMBLE.

JULY, 1813.

HOUSE OF RECOVERY, Cork-street.

_______O@333333

ADVICE.

Though you have sent your Friend to the House of Recovery, yet the Infection may still remain in your Rooms, and about your Clothes.

To remove it, you are advised to use, without delay,

THE FOLLOWING MEANS:

First-Let all your Doors and Windows be immediately thrown open, and let them remain so for two Hours.

Secondly—Let the House or Room whence the patient is removed, be immediately cleansed.—All dirty Clothes, Utensils, &c. should be immersed in cold Water; the Bed-clothes, after being first steeped in cold Water, should be wrung out and washed in warm Water and Soap.

THIRDLY—Let the Clothes you wear be steeped in coldWater, and afterwards washed: and let every Box, Chest, Drawer, &c. in the infectious House be emptied and

cleansed.

FOURTHLY—If you lie on Straw Beds, let the Straw be immediately burned, and fresh Straw provided, and let the Ticken be steeped in cold Water.

FIFTHLY—White-wash all your Rooms, and the Entrance to them, with lime slacked in the Place where you intend to use it, and while it continues bubbling and hot.

Sixthly-Scrape your Floor with a Shovel, and wash it clean, also your Furniture.

SEVENTHLY-Keep in the open Air, for the space of a Week, as much as you can.

And Lastly—Wash your Face, Hands and Feet and comb your Hair well, every Morning at least.

N. B.—The Benefit of this ADVICE after Infection has entered your Dwelling, you will soon feel, and persevering in your Attention to it, will UNDER GOD, preserve you from all the variety of Wretchedness occasioned by infectious Fevers.

Attend to it then with Spirit and Punctuality; for be assured that

CLEANLINESS

Will check DISEASE, improve your HEALTH and STRENGTH, and increase your COMFORT.

The Committee finding that some of the Nurses and Servants of the Hospital have so far departed from their Duty, and violated the Rules of the House, as to have taken Money or other valuable Considerations from Friends of the Patients; and the Committee being convinced that the Credit of the Charity, as well as the Comfort and advantage of the Sick Poor materially depends on the due observance of said Rules, which expressly prohibit such improper Practices, entreat the Public, not under any pretence, or in consequence of any solicitation, to give any Gratuity to the Nurses or Servants for Services done or to be done for the Patients.

By Order,

JAMES CLARK, Register.

LANES TOPABER BUINTER, B. CRAMPTON-COURT.