House of Recovery Cork Street Fever Hospital Annual Report and Physicians Report 1813

This short annual report is concerned mainly with a shortfall in finances and the likelihood that the problem will continue into the following year. He report also includes statistics on the numbers of patients admitted since the hospital opened.

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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, for the year ending the 4th January, 1813.

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"South side of the river Liftig? and althin the boundary of the

"Circular Head, were spinisted : on the La of September 1803

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been so ? And whether the cause or any and and what for word !!

The Committee in making their Annual Report, have to communicate to the subscribers and the public, two serious and important facts, which have occurred within the past year.

The number of patients admitted have increased to the alarming number of 2273, (being 795 more than in the former year, and 1020 more than the average of the seven years preceding,) and the funds have failed in meeting this extraordinary pressure.

The Committee had from the circumstance of an increase in the two former years, judged it necessary to make application for an additional Parliamentary grant of £1000, which they received: notwithstanding this they found that their funds were, from the extensively increased demand for admission, likely to fall considerably short of the expenditure; they therefore, on the 29th October last, addressed the public, stating the facts, and calling for additional aid; and they are sorry to be obliged to say, that but a small sum has been put into

their hands in consequence—this appeal after stating the great increase of admissions, proceeds as follows:—

"The fact being incontrovertible, it may be asked, why it has "been so? And whether the cause or causes producing said in-" crease, have been temporary, or promise in a certain degree to "be permanent? To throw light on a question which the Com. " mittee are anxious to place before the public in a clear point of "view, it is to be remarked, that on the opening of the Hospital "on the 14th of May 1804, the district, from which persons " afflicted with contagious fever were received, was confined to " five parishes within the Liberty: on the 14th May 1805, all "the sick poor labouring under the above disease, residing on the "South side of the river Liffey, and within the boundary of the "Circular Road, were admitted : on the 1st of September 1807, " the benefits of the Charity were opened to female servants, of "every description, labouring under contagious fever within the "district, [heretofore excluded :] on the 1st of June 1808, "the same indulgence was extended for the first time, to male "servants of levery description as above : and on the 5th of "January 1869, the district was finally enlarged, so as to com-" prehend the whole of the City of Dublin within the Circular The Committee had from the circumstance of an inchase?

"In addition to these facts, the Committee are enabled to "state, from an experience of several years past, that the followthing causes have likewise contributed to increase the pressure
on this Hospital.

1st. The benefits afforded to the sick poor, by the humanity and professional skill of the physicians, which have at all times been actively and successfully exerted in their behalf, joined to the steady and strict enforcement of the Hospital

"regulations, which has secured proper attention to the sick,
from the nurses and servants of the Institution, have had a happy
fellect on the minds of the inhabitants of Dublin at large, and
have reconciled them to a mode of relief, against which very
many of the lower orders have long entertained rooted prejusion
dices, and this the Committee consider to be a matter of some
consequence, as every effort which has a tendency to draw the
different classes of society closer together in good will and
affection, must be productive of beneficial national results.

"2d. The Committee know it to be a fact, that a number of poor persons living in the neighbourhood of Dublin, when seized with bad fever, are brought by their friends to a lodging within the Circular Road, and reported to the Hospital in constronity to the existing regulation; which report produces a speedy visit from the physician, and a ticket of admission from them, if the case be entitled to it.

"3d. In the whole of the present year, and for some time before, provisions of all kinds have been uncommonly high in every part of Ireland, but especially in the great cities; whilst, during a part of that time, whiskey was comparatively cheap. A great majority of the lower orders in Dublin, have, on the above accounts, suffered great privations, and have been uncommonly sickly: to this must be added, the additional distress and disease entailed on this city, by the influx of poor persons into it, from all parts of Ireland; some of whom are the wives and children of soldiers and sailors, serving abroad, and when seized with fever, are quite destitute, and have the strongest claims to be received into, and relieved in a public charity.

"After a careful consideration of the foregoing facts; the Committee think there is a probability that the admissions for the year to commence on the 5th of January next, will not fall greatly under the admissions of the present year, and that it will require the sum of £4500 to defray the probable expense of said year.

" Various expedients may be resorted to, to meet this ex-" pense. After mature consideration, the Committee are disposed " to adhere to, and to recommend the plan which formed the " basis of their financial system, on the opening of the Hospital, " namely : That it should be maintained, partly, by parliamen-" tary grant, and, partly, by subscriptions from the inhabitants " of Dublin, who are able and willing to give : the Committee "gladly embrace this opportunity of stating, that in all their " pecuniary exigencies, they have never applied to either without " receiving extensive aid, as the bounty of Government has unl. " formly gone hand in hand with the liberal contributions of hu-" mane and respectable individuals : the Committee have no hesi-" tation in giving it as their decided opinion, that even if it " could be accomplished, it would not be desirable, that this " Institution should be left wholly dependant upon Parliamentary grants for support: the interest which most men take in the " welfare of an institution which they contribute to maintain, " has a strong tendency to keep alive good will, and to envi-" gorate the spirit of active and upright controul and superin-" tendance, on which the vitality and usefulness of all charities " depend; and in addition to this, the Committee think that an " establishment which promptly receives and relives the servants of the upper and middle classes of Dublin, labouring under " contagious fever, as well as the lower orders, and prevents the "ravage of contagion from spreading throughout this populous
city, as it too often has done heretofore, has a strong and
cquitable call for support, to a certain extent, from those
persons to whose families and relatives, such advantages and
security have been brought home."

The Committee have now only to observe, that it will appear from the annexed account, that they are very considerably in debt to their Treasurers, and therefore they entreat that the foregoing statement may be duly considered, and that all who are of ability to contribute even small sums, will send their donations to the Treasurers, or to any of the Committee whose names are annexed, and likewise that those who are already annual subscribers may be willing to give an increase to what they have hitherto paid.—That an Institution which it is believed will be acknowledged to have been of extensive and essential usefulness, may not be under the necessity of curtailing its benefits.

Cork-street, 6th May, 1813.

PATIENTS ADMITTED-

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FEVER HOSPITAL, CORK STREET.

The public will learn, with painful feelings, that this noble Institution has fallen short in its Funds for the past year, and that there is great danger of its usefulness being contracted unless timely aid is a forded. The last printed Report announces, that 2273 Patients have been admitted within the year, a number exceeding that of any former, by 499!!! The extent of misery relieved, and of contagion confined, within that period, by the admission of such

We understand that a Sub-committee has been appointed to solicit Subscriptions; could a line from us save them any part of so irksome and anxious a task it would afford us great satisfaction. We know that the Committee of this Hospital has never appealed to the public in vain, and never was a more

a number, is an awful and important considera-

tion which has reached us.

As we were penning these lines, we are desired to acknowledge the receipt of the following sums, as a commencement of the much wanted supply.

Joseph Goff, Esq. 20

John Leland Maquay, Esq. 20

Committee :

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

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John David La Touche,
Peter La Touche, jun.
Randal Mac Donnell,
George Maquay,
John Lelaud Maquay,
John Orr,
James M. Pike,
George Renney,
Edward Swanwick,
Luke White.

Printing, Stationary and Advertising

Medicines, including wine and Spirits

Incidentalexpenses, including expense of Horse

Physicians : Midall anid awalid W

Account of Property of the Institution, exclusive

Francis Barker, M. D. William Stoker, M. D. George Hagan, M. D. Richard Gamble, M. D. Thomas Mills, M. D. Joseph Lynch, M. D.

Repairs

Surgeon,
Register and Purveyor,
Apothecary, (temporary)
Collector,
House-keeper,

Samuel Wilmot,
Wm. Richardson,
J. R. Price,
Henry Harris,
Jane Leedom.

Medicine for value of wine

Servants usually employed at the Hospital:

Three Porters, two Whitewashers, twelve Nurses, and eight Female Servants.

5th January, 1813.

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

Street Not Bandal Mad House 12 100 100	£	s.	d.
	0 77		12/19/19/19/19
Maintenance of Patients and Servants	1554	10	91
House-bedding, Furniture and Clothing,	to pain	on.	
wear and tear	350	14	61
Salaries of Officers, Nurses and Servants .	996	15	101
Fuel, Soap and Candles	319	11	.6
Printing, Stationary and Advertising	32	18	61
Medicines, including wine and Spirits	476	10	2
Incidentalexpenses, including expense of Horse	123	10	3
Whitewashing Habitations of the Poor	95	0	4
Repairs 1	137	15	5.
Mer, M. D. Richard Camble, M. D.	and the second		
Meer, M. D. , Thomas Mills, M. D.	4164	13	91

Account of Property of the Institution, exclusive

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Sth January, 1813.

and eight Femnie Sevrants.

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To Furniture and House-bedding	Cleinporu	1591 3. 0
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Government Stock	-	- 1305 9 4
Medicine for value of wine on hand	-	- 202 67
employed at the Hospital:	usually	3223 2 5

Whitewashers, twelve Narses,

of Recovery and Fever Hospital, Cork-Street, 4th of January, 1813.

BUT THE RESERVE TO THE PROPERTY.			
By Parliamentary grant, Net		8.	
	1998	100	
Subscriptions	1081	11	6
Donations	- 215	17	11
Amount of Hay and grass, deducting Expen	ses 38	18	6
Interest on Government Stock	- 59	5	8
Interest from a Fund raised for relief of I)is_	1450	
tressed Manufacturers given temporar	ily		
######################################	- 141	2	11
to Ot San			599
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Excess of Expenditure above Income .	- 629	1	4
na er ter	. 511	-	
The same of the sa	4164	13	94
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77 77 67		101	0
of Buildings and Premises, 5th of Ja	nuary,	131	3.
By Treasurers due them -	1503	13	9
	1719		
Net property of the Institution -	1/1	**	Dia.

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MEDICAL REPORT.

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ONE OF THE PHYSICIANS.

Being called on, according to the regulations of the Institution, to furnish a report for the year past, of occurrences as far as might regard the medical department, I beg leave to observe, that, in consequence of the great press of business during that period, from the extraordinary increase of applications for the sick, and also from the indisposition of some of the medical gentlemen in attendance, and likewise of the apothecary, it became impracticable to pay that attention to what occurred, which is always found necessary on such occasions. Though, as the establishment embraces only such as are found sick of contagious fever, the report of one year must often refer to such occurrences as have already been adverted to in the preceding annual reports of the house. Rendered incapable, from the circumstances above stated, of giving a report in the usual manner, I shall take the liberty of effering a few observations respecting fever.

Typhus fever, during the last year, has been unusually prevalent; many families in the lower ranks of the community, have suffered severely by it; several individuals in the same families, and sometimes the entire of them, were visited by it in succession. Relapses also were uncommonly frequent; yet, in other respects, the type of the fever was not more formidable than that of the epidemic of some other years. Whether this extraordinary power of establishing itself so widely, should be referred to any peculiar quality in itself, or rather to a certain state of body and mind in the lower ranks of society, predisposing them so as to be more susceptible of the influence of contagion than is commonly the case, I shall not take upon me to say.

That such predisposition, however, may take place, might be thought probable from the following circumstances, which pre. vailed during that time in an uncommon degree. These were poverty, want, anxiety, and distress of mind, with their unavoidable attendant, -neglect of cleanliness. It might appear strange that fever could become so common, considering the great attention resorted to by the Institution to preventive measures .- Such means are attended to, and unquestionably with advantage, in retarding its progress, and circumscribing in a certain degree its sphere of action, as has been shewn in former reports; yet the poverty of most of the families from which the sick are removed, operates powerfully against the means of prevention; as they, being so poor, have no change of clean bed-clothes, and are therefore obliged to continue the use of the foul clothes, which remain a nursery for infection that often continues for a long time in the same apartments, appearing occasionally as the season or other circumstances may favour it. I would moreover observe,

that we often meet with individuals sick of contagious fever, who have not, from any account possible to be obtained, been in any degree exposed to contagion, and that there fore we might reasonably presume that there may exist other causes exclusive of contagion, effective in producing such fever. Bite of an acrid, and in some degree, unnatural quality, might probably be a principal cause.

This, with due deference and respect to those more experienced and better qualified to judge, I would be disposed to admit, influenced so from the following consideration, viz: That there may occasionally obtain a certain concurrence of circumstances, such as—state of atmosphere, degree of exercise, state of mind, and mode of living; which may so influence the economy of the human body, that bile of an acrid and somewhat unnatural quality may be secreted by the liver, which, when taken up into circulation from the first passages, may so disturb the heart, arterial system, and other parts, that the symptoms which usually accompany an attack of fever from contagion, will take place, and fever be established, that in its progress will become contagious.

nerally succeeded both in the treatment of fever immediately pending of contagion, and also of that which could not be referred to any, such cause; the most general of which indications are the removal of this bilious supply from the first passages by appropriate medicines, and also of that part of it out of circulation which has already been taken up by a plentiful supply of light subacid diluents, assisted by such medicines as experience and observation shall point out. To this offensive quality of the bile might probably be referred the varieties met

with in typhus fever; as when attended with sore throat. pains, and inflammation of the joints, petechiæ, and scarlatina externally, and also when internally, with affections of brain, Jungs, pleura, liver, peritoneum, stomach, and intestines. Thesevarieties take place occasionally in either of the parts according as one part is more predisposed than another to suffer from this offending cause. The external topical affections will generally disappear in proportion as the original fever is removed by the usual means. When any of the internal parts above mentioned is engaged, we have found it absolutely necessary to resort immediately to the lancet, though the fever in other respects were of the most forbidding type, to await the effects of the usual treatment of the fever, would be attended with serious consequences. In such cases only of low fever, when some of the internal parts above mentioned are engaged in inflammation, do I think the lancet necessary; nay, in some instances, it might, in my humble opinion, be hurtful.

In last August, the sick under my care in the hospital, during that month, were 104, of which number 4 died; of 100 dismissed cured, 2 only were blooded. I am satisfied to think that more than nine tenths of the 98 cured without being bled, might have lost a few ounces of blood, without injury; but surely I could not fairly refer their recovery to blood-letting.

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presence by appropriate medicines, and also of that part of it

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tild supply of light subscid diluents, assisted by such medicines

2nd June, 1813. GEO. HAGAN.

referred to any, such cause; the most general of which iself.

J. Jones, Printer, 40, S. Gt. George's st, Dublin.