

NEWS AND TOPICS OF THE DAY.

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largest number was 239, on the 13th April. The daily average number, as calculated for each month, was least in August, being 174; and greatest in April, being 229. In the Fever wards the smallest number of patients on a single day was 36, on 26th August; the largest was 137, on 10th February. The daily average number, as calculated for each month of the year, was least in September, being 48; and greatest in February, being 124. In the whole Institution, the smallest number of patients on a single day throughout the year was 201, on the 26th August. The greatest was 374, on the 9th February. The daily average number, as calculated for each month of the year, was least in August, when it was 225; and greatest in February, when it was 344. The applicants for medical relief at the dispensary amounted to 6,766. Hence it appears that the total number of patients who received medical aid in the hospital during the year was 10,840.

A great and decided decrease in the number of fever patients occurred during the past year. The total number of cases was little more than one-half of the number of last year, and about two-thirds of the number in the two preceding years. Typhus cannot be said at any time to have appeared in an epidemic form. In last year's report, it was mentioned that the managers had made preparation, in the event of an outbreak of cholera, for the admission of a limited number of patients. It was expected, however, that the parochial authorities would make such preparations that no great pressure would be made upon the accommodation of the hospital for the reception of ordinary cases. The rapidity with which the fatal symptoms of the disease attacked its victims, precluded the possibility of many being sent to an hospital. Besides, preparations were made for a greater number of patients being promptly attended and treated in their own houses than on former occasions, and more accommodation was prepared by the parochial authorities of the city than was occupied at any period of the epidemic. A limited number of cases were received in the infirmary. Exposed to the same epidemic influence as the rest of the city, not more than two or three cases occurred among the patients in the hospital. Application was made to the managers to receive patients from a country district, but was refused on the principle that the carriage of patients for a distance of some miles would most probably prove injurious, if not fatal. Recently, cholera having in a great measure disappeared from the city, the parochial authorities applied to the managers of the infirmary to receive any cases that might occur, in order that they might close the cholera hospital, and apply it to other useful purposes. This proposition was at once acceded to, and the managers undertook to receive any cases that might present themselves.

Fever towards the end of August last fell to its lowest ebb—there being only 36 patients in the house at that time. This was a gradual decrease from 137 at the beginning of the year. Since August they find that it gradually increased towards the end of the year, till it reached the number of 94.

In the beginning of November, an application for a change of the visit and lecture hour, signed by a majority of the medical attendants, was laid before the managers. After much deliberation, it was resolved that the visit hour should be 12 o'clock noon, on and after the 1st May next.

The annual subscriptions amounted to the sum of £3,428:14:6. The amount received under the head of extraordinary income was £1,641:5:10. This consisted of legacies and donations. The legacies amount to £1,473:7:8, and the donations to £167:18:2. The whole income for the year amounted to £10,491:8:7; including £54:4:4 of property and income tax returned. The expenditure amounted to £10,236:0:3. The average expense of each patient was £2, which exceeded the average of 1853 by 1s. 3d. This was accounted for chiefly by the increase in the price of articles of consumption.

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