

A general state of the Whitehaven Dispensary, : for the year 1784.

Contributors

Whitehaven Dispensary (Whitehaven, England)
Dixon, Joshua, 1745-1825.

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A G E N E R A L S T A T E

O F T H E

W H I T E H A V E N D I S P E N S A R Y ,

For the Year 1784.

I N promoting the interest, by extending the benefits of this charity to every description of its proper objects, and thus sensibly diminishing the sum of human miseries, where they so especially and poignantly prevail, the man of benevolence must experience the sublimest self-satisfaction. Conscious that being actuated by the best of

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prin-

principles, he has strictly obeyed, and amply fulfilled the dictates, by indulging the most acceptable propensities of humanity, his feelings and reflections will become exquisitely pleasing. The thankful acknowledgment of those who supplicate and obtain relief, (their best and only tribute of gratitude) whilst it proves to him the singular expediency of this institution, affords, at the same time, the clearest conviction that acts of beneficence carry along with them the most perfect reward.

Agreeably to the established mode of conducting this charity, a brief, yet comprehensive state of its proceedings will be here subjoined: the requisite limits of this Report by no means suitably admitting a more circumstantial detail, and the usual and various Dispensary Records rendering it perfectly unnecessary.

The registered cases, especially in the surgical department, have very much exceeded in number and importance those of the preceding year, and the increase of the trivial list has been also considerable; the total disbursements, however, so far from being proportionably augmented, are not a little reduced. From these considerations, the utility and œconomy of this institution may be certainly inferred.

With regard to the contagious diseases of the last year, a few additional dysenteric patients were admitted, and long ago dismissed cured: of the 18 remaining upon the books,

two cases, and those aged and infirm people, terminated fatally. The Hooping Cough was in the course of the summer, and still more so in that of the autumn and winter, a very prevalent and potent disease. To the 24 children previously admitted, 98 have been since recommended, and of the whole, 120 fortunately recovered.

Notwithstanding the long continued severity of the late season, inflammatory disorders neither frequently nor dangerously prevailed. The most alarming aggravations were observable in the asthmatic and every other case of chronic indisposition. The lower class of people became then also more especially liable to fever of a nervous and malignant nature. This disease, as the only interesting epidemic of the present year, may be very properly selected to furnish a few general observations. Its distinguishing characters have been always preceded and accompanied by those of universal debility; lassitude and languor marking the progress, and determining the event of fever. With the ordinary symptoms of the cold, hot and sweating fits were intimately blended, in cases most eminently dangerous, various affections of the brain, and powerful determinations to the bowels. Of the numbers admitted, amounting to 371, ten died. Several mild and transient cases occurred in the autumn: but it was not before the advance of the winter, and approach of the spring, that the prevalency of
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this disease was in the least remarkable. At present its malignancy has happily, in a great measure, subsided. The peculiar and potent, yet limited influence of this fever, will be best ascertained by the following facts:—That in a certain house, containing three families, occupying distinct apartments, not one of ten inhabitants escaped this contagion; six of these were violently affected, scarce permitting the least favourable appearance before the 14th or 17th day, and four very slightly. The three who last experienced the disease, were singular instances of its virulency: A mother and two children had been seized with the general symptoms, which, observing the usual progress, terminated on the 14th day. After an interval of five weeks, they again took the infection, and very exactly completed the same course. Still more extraordinary was the case of the parent, who a third time suffered its distresses, admitting a tedious and painful recovery. Fortunately this fever, though here exceedingly malignant, did not communicate itself to a single individual in the neighbourhood; a decisive and comfortable evidence that such contagion could only become active and dangerous to those who were immediately and constantly exposed to it. The methods and precautions generally recommended, and found by experience highly qualified to eradicate this infectious disease, or totally interrupt its further baneful communication, have been

been

been every where strenuously inculcated; and so far as the circumstances of the sick would permit, diligently executed. Fumigations with camphire, myrrh, sulphur, tobacco, or juniper berries, and the explosion of gunpowder, were deemed the most efficacious antidotes to this contagion. The strictest observance of cleanliness, with regard to the patients, their families, and habitations, was also required; and a free circulation of air, from various apertures in the windows and doors, always admitted. To these salutary expedients were frequently added the liberal application of vinegar to the floors, bedsteads, &c. and fresh prepared white-wash to the walls and ceilings of infected places. The bed cloaths and linen of the sick were directed to be steeped several hours in cold water; then washed and dried in the open air, with a view to prevent the pernicious effects of contaminated effluvia.

An attempt to precisely ascertain the critical periods of this fever must be unavoidably attended with considerable difficulties. Inaccurate observation of the patients or their attendants, and the slow, scarce perceptible approaches of disease, rendering this circumstance, so highly eligible and important in itself and its consequences, very frequently precarious and uncertain. It may, however, be pretty exactly determined, from repeated experience, that the most manifest aggravations or remissions of disease occurred on the 3d,

7th, 11th, 14th, or 17th days. Few were the instances of its being protracted to the 21st, and when it did so, the event was universally salutary. The crisis which imperfectly formed itself on the 11th, agreeably to the general sentiment of practical writers, was, for the most part, completed on the 14th or 17th, and always favourably: whereas, the fatal cases had been invariably characterised by symptoms admitting no obvious remissions, and usually terminated on the 11th or 14th day. There were indeed many proofs of a more early crisis; when, upon the first attack, the exhibition of an active Emetic not only readily and perfectly removed the most alarming symptoms, but certainly prevented their future, violent recurrence.

The influence and effects of electricity, in the relief and removal of numerous infirmities and diseases, are now universally acknowledged, and perhaps nothing more eminently distinguishes modern practice than the frequent and judicious employment of it; a complete Electrical Machine, adapted by every requisite improvement to medical purposes, was therefore procured, and the application of this remedy to various instances of powerful and permanent morbid affection, has since repeatedly and surprizingly displayed its efficacy.

The admission of Midwifery Cases, under proper restrictions, would be attended with very beneficial consequences.

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The deaths of many mothers and children might be probably prevented, and the numerous inconveniences, dangers, and distresses, of a situation least qualified to support them, effectually obviated. In imitation of every other similar undertaking, the directors of this charity have wished to extend its utility to objects so peculiarly eligible; but the amount of the present subscriptions is very inadequate to this purpose. The earliest opportunity will, however, be happily accepted of carrying into execution a measure, which the feelings, not less than the interests, of humanity conspire to recommend.

It is earnestly hoped that the primary and principal scheme of this Dispensary, in restoring the health, and preserving the life of the indigent, has been fully accomplished; and that those motives which first excited the liberality of the charitable and wealthy, to establish so useful an institution, will fail not to secure to it their future patronage and support.

All persons who are disposed to contribute by Will, to this charity, are requested to do it in the following manner:

“ I give and bequeath to A. B. and C. D. the sum of _____ upon trust, that they do pay the same to the Treasurer of the Whitehaven Dispensary; which sum of _____ I desire may be applied towards carrying on the benevolent designs of the said charity.”

*An ACCOUNT of the PATIENTS admitted, from
June 14, 1784, to June 13, 1785.*

Recommended and registered (of whom 1310 were visited at their respective habitations)	-	2061
Trivial cases	- - - -	583
		<hr/>
		2644
Patients remaining upon the books, June 14, 1784,		220
		<hr/>
		2864

The STATE of the REGISTERS.

Cured	- - - - -	1774
Relieved	- - - - -	82
Incurable	- - - - -	28
Irregular	- - - - -	4
Dead	- - - - -	49
Remain upon the books	- - - - -	344
		<hr/>
		2281
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Patients admitted since this Dispensary was opened, June 30, 1783	- - - - -	4701

DISEASES.

D I S E A S E S.

Intermittent fever	5	Brought over	1359
Inflammatory fever	47	Convulsions	6
Nervous fever	371	Epilepsy	20
Hectic fever	3	Asthma	54
Worm fever	124	Hooping cough	111
External inflammation	39	Colic	83
Gangrene	4	Cholera	15
Inflammation of the eyes	53	Diarrhoea	50
Inflammation of the brain	3	Diabetes	1
Inflammatory sore throat	14	Hysteria	9
Inflammation of the lungs	66	Mania	1
Inflammation of the bowels	1	Melancholy	3
Acute rheumatism	13	Chronic weakness	54
Chronic rheumatism	79	Dropsy	28
Erysipelas	8	Rickets	6
Inflammatory eruptions	53	Scrophula	24
Miliary fever	5	Lues venerea	9
Sore mouth	5	Jaundice	7
Hæmorrhages	32	Dimness of sight	8
Consumption	46	Deafness	1
Abortion	6	Gravel	27
Catarrh	78	Cancer	4
Catarrh of old age	16	Rupture	5
Dysentery	29	Herpes	5
Head ach, and vertigo	44	Scald head	19
Palsy	9	Scorbutic eruptions	168
Fainting	5	Luxations, fractures & sprains	36
Stomach complaints	143	Ulcers and abscesses	58
Flatulency	58	Contusions, wounds & burns	110
Carried forward	<u>1359</u>	Total	<u>2281</u>

S U B S C R I B E R S.

A	£. s. d.	Brought over	£. 22	0	0
James Atkinson	0 10 6	Rev. C. C. Church	1	1	0
* A. B.	0 10 6	Rev. John Colquhoun	1	1	0
William Alexander	0 5 0	† Walter Chambré	1	1	0
Benjamin Antrobus	0 5 0	† James Corkhill	0	5	0
B		Robert Carter	0	5	0
W. Brownrigg, M. D.		* John Clementson	0	5	0
F. R. S. Ormathwaite	2 2 0	D			
† Anthony Benn, Esq.		John Dixon, Esq.	2	2	0
Henfingham	3 3 0	† Joshua Dixon, M. D.	2	2	0
John Barns	1 1 0	J. L. Devillers	1	1	0
John Bateman	1 1 0	Peter Dixon	1	1	0
John Beck	1 1 0	* John Doughty,			
Joseph Bragg, druggist	1 1 0	druggist, Newcastle	1	1	0
† Robert Blakeney	1 1 0	John Douglas	0	10	6
Barras and Birkhead	0 10 6	John Dowson	0	10	6
Henry Bragg	0 10 6	* Mrs. Deane	0	10	6
Darcy Bowes	0 10 6	John Dunn	0	5	0
John Bowness	0 10 6	F			
† John Bragg	0 10 6	L. W. Fletcher, Esq.			
* Myles Brockbank	0 10 6	Hutton-Hall	2	2	0
* Henry Booth	0 10 6	Robert Fisher, Esq.	1	11	6
* Mrs. Richard Bowman	0 10 6	R. Fletcher, merchant	1	11	6
* Robert Baldrige	0 5 0	H. Fletcher, do.	1	11	6
* Mrs. Briggs	0 5 0	* Rev. Gilbert Filkin,			
C		Warwickshire	1	1	0
John Christian, Esq.		Robert Ferguson	1	1	0
Workington-Hall	5 5 0	Thomas Fisher	1	1	0
Carried forward	£. 22 0 0	Carried forward	£. 45	1	0

Those marked thus * are new subscriptions, and thus † augmentations.

Brought over	£. 45	1	0
R. Fletcher, mercer	1	1	0
* Rev. James Favel, A.M.	0	10	6
Henry Fletcher	0	10	6
* Henry Fleming	0	10	6
* Isaac Foster	0	10	6
Mrs. Jane Fletcher	0	10	6
Stephen Farish	0	5	0
Mrs. Barbara Fletcher	0	5	0
G			
Peter Gale, Esq.	1	1	0
John Gibson	1	1	0
† Benjamin Gilliat	1	1	0
Mrs. Greybourn	0	5	0
* Miss Gale	0	5	0
H			
Rev. Wilfrid Hudleston	2	2	0
Joseph Hoskins, Esq.	2	2	0
John Hodgson	2	2	0
† Thomas Hartley, Esq.	2	2	0
† J. Hamilton, Surgeon	2	2	0
John Hartley, Esq.	1	1	0
Jos. Harris, Surgeon	1	1	0
P. J. Heywood, Esq.	1	1	0
James Hogarth	1	1	0
† Thomas Harrison	1	1	0
George Hall	0	10	6
William Harrison	0	10	6
Lowther Horn	0	10	6
James Hall	0	5	0
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Carried forward	£. 70	9	0

Brought over	£. 70	9	0
John Hudleston	0	5	0
J			
Edward & J. Johnston	1	1	0
Wm. Jackson, Kefwick	1	1	0
K			
Rev. James Kirkpatrick	1	1	0
Thos. Kirkpatrick	0	5	0
Robert Key, Harrington	0	5	0
Miss Kelsick	0	5	0
L			
Isaac Littledale	2	2	0
Henry Littledale	2	2	0
Thomas Lutwidge, Esq.	1	1	0
John Lancaster	0	10	6
James Lowes	0	10	6
M			
* Robert Maw	1	1	0
Robert Miller	0	10	6
George Miller	0	10	6
John M'Bride	0	5	0
John Moore	0	5	0
N			
Rev. Henry Nicholson	1	1	0
O			
* Richard Oyes	1	1	0
P			
Samuel Potter	1	11	6
John Parker	1	1	0
John Piper	1	1	0
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Carried forward	£. 89	5	6

DISBURSEMENTS.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Drugs and medicines	39	16	2½
Printing & stationary	4	3	5
Humane Society's Apparatus *	4	12	8
An electrical machine	7	7	0
Coals, candles, wine, phials, and fundry small articles	9	18	10½
House rent	7	10	0
Apothecary's salary and gratuity	35	5	0
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	108	13	2
Balance in the Treas- urer's hands	103	4	5
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	£. 211	17	7
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Total Subscriptions	118	11	5
Balance with the Treas- urer last year	93	6	2

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	211	17	7
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Audited by P. J. Heywood, Esq.
Mr. John Barns, and Mr.
Walter Chambre.

Balance remaining in
the Treasurer's
hands £. 103 4 5

* Doctor COGAN's late invented instrument, for the more immediate extraction of drowning bodies from the water, was presented to this Charity by Doctor HAWES, the benevolent institutor and register of the Humane Society ; to whose goodness it is also indebted for a great variety of most useful information respecting the important subject of suspended animation.

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OFFICERS

OFFICERS for the YEAR 1785.

P R E S I D E N T.

The Right Honourable James Earl of Lonsdale.

V I C E P R E S I D E N T S.

—John Christian, Esquire.—Anthony Benn, Esquire.—
 William Brownrigg, M. D. F. R. S.
 Rev. Wilfrid Hudleston.—Rev. Charles Cobbe Church.

TREASURER.

Mr. Henry Fletcher.

SECRETARY.

Mr. Peter How Younger.

M O N T H L Y C O M M I T T E E.

—Peter Gale, Esquire.—Thomas Hartley, Esquire—
 Mr. Henry Littledale.—John Dixon, Esquire.—
 Robert Fisher, Esq.—Rev. James Kirkpatrick.
 —Rev. John Colquhoun.—Mr. Robert Blakeney.—
 —Mr. Walter Chambre.—Mr. John Beck.—
 Mr. Peter Dixon.—Mr. Robert Ferguson.

M E D I C A L C O M M I T T E E.

Joshua Dixon, M. D.—Mr. John Hamilton, Surgeon.
 Mr. Joseph Harris, Surgeon.

P H Y S I C I A N.

Joshua Dixon, M. D.

S U R G E O N.

Mr. John Hamilton.

A P O T H E C A R Y.

Mr. William Robinfon.

* * * Subscriptions *are taken in at the* TREASURER'S,
 WARE'S PRINTING-OFFICE, *and at the* DISPENSARY.