A general state of the Whitehaven Dispensary, : for the year 1808.

Contributors

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

Publication/Creation

Whitehaven: Printed by John Ware, in King-street, [1809]

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A GENERAL STATE

WHITEHAVEN DISPENSARY.

For the Year 1808.

[Printed by John Ware, in King Street, Whitehaven.]

THE prevention of Contagious Disease, and the preservation of the general health of the community, are the important objects of MEDICAL CHARITY. Whilst the fick are attended in their respective abodes, the various Cases of Surgery receive every necessary assistance. The sufferings of the lower and most numerous Class of people, from internal disease, or external injury, are either totally removed, or, in a great measure, alleviated. The considerable improvements, and increase of population, in the town of WHITEHAVEN, arising from the successful and rapid progress of Commerce, and Manufactures, have rendered the aids of the DISPENSARY, to these its objects, highly neceffary and useful. - The benefits, which have refulted

fulted from it, during the preceding year, will be most clearly evinced by a statement of its proceedings.

The acute disorders of the summer were so few and trivial, that scarcely any application was made to this CHARITY, for its usual attentions.—To the temperate state of the season might the mild and transient symptoms of the Hooping Cough be attributed.—During the prevalence of excessive heat, the unremitting and active labours of the indigent gave occasion to a few diseases of an inflammatory nature. By a strict compliance with the principles of the cooling regimen, particularly the employment of blood-letting, the urgent symptoms were sensibly relieved; and their fatal tendency was effectually prevented.—In the autumn and winter, several cases of General Fever, assuming a malignant form, occurred in different districts of this Charity. The infection appeared to originate from extreme poverty, and a total inattention to clean-liness, in the persons, clothing, and abodes of the sick. To these circumstances also might be imputed that increased virulence, which marked the influence of the disease, in the families exposed to it. Scarcely a single individual escaped the contagion, even of those who had the slightest connexion with the sick. In a few cases, a putrid tendency prevailed, and fatally closed the disease, on the 11th day. - When the crisis occurred at a later period, it was, for the most part, favourable. In one instance where the symptoms were exceedingly violent, and in many respects similar to those of pestilential distemper, the formation of a large abscess, in the face and neck, afforded the first prospect of recovery.—It was upon these deplorable occasions, that PRIVATE BENEFICENCE

has been most usefully applied. To acknowledge the sense we retain of the obligations, thus conferred upon the Dispension of the obligations, thus conferred upon the Dispension of the imperiate their value by a due consideration, not only of the immediate relief, which these unhappy objects have derived from pecuniary assistance, and necessary supplies of wine; but also from that regular personal attendance, in consequence of which the measures approved by experience, as efficacious in eradicating Contagion, were duly executed, and thus the baneful progress of malignant disease was arrested; and a populous community preserved from its dreadful ravages.

In the habitations of the poor, suffering infectious fever, no opportunity has been omitted of inculcating a diligent attention to general cleanliness, clear circulation of air, and ablution, with vinegar and water. It was necessary frequently to change the woollen and linen articles, which, as imbibing, and retaining contagious effluvia, were highly qualified to spread the disease. Though in the advanced stages of fever, we could not employ the cold affusion, yet the patients always were refreshed and relieved by the frequent applica-

tion of tepid vinegar, a little diluted.

As we have before remarked, no expedient has contributed more effectually to the salubrity of this town, than that of liberally employing fresh prepared white wash; particularly in crowded and confined situations; or where the vagrant

poor are permitted to have a temporary residence.

The pungent vapour, arising from quick-lime, saturated with boiling vinegar, or of the same acid, combined with aromatics, was very efficacious in destroying the power of Contagion. A simple, least expensive, and perhaps most useful preparation of the latter, is the addition of a quantity

of bruised Jamaica pepper to heated vinegar. The usual mineral Fumigations, with the concentrated vitriolic, nitrous, and marine acids, were often employed, carefully and assiduously, in all cases of excessive malignancy; or to purify vacant infected chambers; or, indeed, wherever any degree

of Contagion could be suspected to remain.

In the course of this year, the Specific Contagions of Children have been more than usually prevalent. In the month of July, the child of a mendicant traveller suffered the Small Pox. The infection had been imbibed in some distant situation, and the maturated state of the distinct, but numerous eruptions, was evidently declining; yet, at the same time, in every respect, qualified to communicate the disease.

The Conductors of this DISPENSARY are gratefully sensible of the benefits which have been derived from the Magistracy and Police of the town, in suppressing the dissemination of a most destructive disease; and especially at a season when the heat of the weather would have increased its virulence. By precluding every connection with the child and his mother; by frequent ablution, and supplying them, from the Work-house, with clean linen, and other articles of clothing, destroying, or cautiously washing their wearing apparel, the danger which threatened us was happily prevented.

parel, the danger which threatened us was happily prevented. No other case of Small Pox occurred till the beginning of October, when a seaman, who had caught the infection, in Ireland, appeared to suffer the disease to a degree much more powerful than the preceding patient. Though the lane, in which he lived, was very confined, and numerously inhabited, yet the precautions observed were perfectly successful, in preventing the further diffusion of this contagion.—In the months of January, February, and March, the SMALL

Pox prevailed with remarkable malignancy. Neither its original source, nor the mode of its conveyance to situations distant from each other, at the same period, could be traced with any accuracy. The number of deaths to that of recoveries was in the usual proportion, of from one to six or eight patients; and the painful protraction, and distressful consequences of the disease, in many instances, were truly deplorable.

The Measles have been the principal epidemic of the Winter. In constitutions liable to suffer acute disorders, or in full habits of body, a general inflammatory tendency, and a powerful determination to the lungs, were observed to prevail, and threaten an almost immediately fatal effect. In such cases, large blood-lettings, (repeated whenever the symptoms became urgent) with blisters and active purgatives, were the only expedients, from which a present relief, and perfect recovery, could be expected. The danger was always remarkably increased by the Measles being complicated with, or supervening upon, any other disease; particularly the Hooping Cough, or Scarlet Fever. Many of these cases were distinguished by a considerable enlargement of the glands of the neck, accompanied with insensibility, deligious restlessness and a darrag of fever. This disease lirium, restlessness, and a degree of fever. This disease, during the first two months of its prevalence, was remarkably mild, and favourable; but in its further progress, the symptoms became highly malignant, and the event frequently proved fatal. The same alarming tendency has been observed in the protracted stages of former Epidemics; yet as these dangerous cases occurred in the winter, they were pro-

bably occasioned by the intense cold of the weather.

The SCARLET FEVER has been the dreadful scourge of nearly three centuries. Infants, and children under the age of ten years, are highly susceptible of this contagion. To deli-cate and infirm persons, from the age of fifteen to twenty-five, it sometimes occurs; but rarely attacks those more advanced in life. The singularity in the prevalence of the late epidemic, was that of its not being so generally confined to such subjects; several adult and athletic people having experienced the powerful influence of this dangerous disease. The purely inflammatory symptoms of the first stage very often degenerate upon the 6th or 8th day of the disease into a state of malignant putrescency.-When the eruptions are florid, and occupy almost the whole surface of the body; appearing early in the disease, and not receding till the crisis is completed, a favourable event may be predicted. General prostration of strength, acute fever, stupor, delirium, few and pale eruptions, with an inflamed, tumified, and ulcerated state of the throat, are symptoms, which indicate imminent danger. We have sincerely deplored the frequency and fatality of this disease, for these last seven months. In that period the total admissions were 138, and the deaths 7. The usual expedients of exclusion from the sick, cleanliness, ventilation, and active fumigations, have been adopted to prevent its further baneful dissemination.

Since the Cow-Pock Inoculation was first recommended to the notice of the public, by its justly celebrated discoverer Dr. Jenner, it has been the diligent endeavour of the Directors of this Charity, by actual experiment, and unprejudiced observation, to establish its efficacy. They are happy in attesting that no doubt can be entertained of its affording a secure protection against the most virulent species of Small Pox Infection. Many children have been afterwards inoculated for that disease, or exposed to an intimate and constant intercourse with families suffering it naturally, when the pustules

pustules were confluent, and certainly qualified to spread the infection. In the first case the inflammation was transient, and in both the general health of the patient continued perfect. -We are sorry to find it necessary to repeat, so frequently, the injunction that the VACCINE MATTER, for inoculation, should never be taken later than the 8th day. Its state must be clear and liquid. Whenever any degree of opacity, or consistency, can be discovered, it is no longer capable of resisting the malignancy of the SMALL-Pox Contagion. This intimation, we are fully assured, will govern the conduct of medical practitioners; and we think it our duty to express a wish, that to them This Inoculation should be solely confined: not only upon account of the judgment, which is required, in selecting the quality of the matter, but also as its peculiar mildness demands great care and assiduity, in order to render its application effectual.—451 children have been inoculated, at the DISPENSARY, for this inoffensive, safe, and life-preserving disease, since our last GENERAL MEETING; and the total number of patients admitted, during a period of eight years, amounts to 1554.

The perils to which the most numerous and useful class of people, in this sea-port town, are unavoidably exposed; or the accidents, which may occur to those who are engaged in our extensive collieries: with the recollection of the many deplorable cases, from drowning, which have formerly occurred, made it advisable with the DIRECTORS of this CHARITY, at its primary establishment, to form an intimate connection with the Royal Humane Society, of London. The utility of this laudable Institution is now extended to the inhabitants of almost every quarter of the globe; and the obligations, which the zealous and unremitting exertions of the late worthy Dr. HAWES, its original promoter, have conferent

wretched,

red, are universally acknowledged. We wish to unite, with theirs, this our last TRIBUTE of gratitude, respect, and esteem. No Institution could be recommended by motives more persuasive, or prove more beneficial in its operation and consequences, than that which proposes the best possible means of preserving life, when exposed to the most imminent dangers; or of restoring its functions, when apparently extinguished. We have been amply supplied with every instruction, which the complicated circumstances of Suspended Animation, excited by various causes, might occasionally require. We are also furnished with a MACHINE, containing a complete APPA-RATUS, for the perfect execution of those measures, which judgment and experience have long ago sanctioned, and still continue to approve.—To a subject so intimately connected with the dearest interests of Society, the ingenious efforts of several eminent physicians, and surgeons, for many years, have been directed. It has also given rise to various important discoveries, and inventions. Of these, unquestionably the most useful is that of the LIFE-BOAT; for which the public is indebted to Mr. HENRY GREATHEAD of South Shields. Our sentiments, respecting its expediency, in maritime situations, where the perils of shipwreck, from tempestuous weather, must frequently occur, have been delivered, in former REPORTS; and we have only to add our perfect conviction, from actual experience, of its beneficial effects.

Many, and important, are the benefits, of which a MEDICAL CHARITY is productive, both to those who are its immediate objects, and to those who support it. Administering the aids of Medicine to the indigent sick, it removes, or mitigates, the most dreadful sufferings to which human nature is liable.—Of all the children of affliction they are, unquestionably, the most wretched,

wretched, who are incapacitated by bodily pain, and infirmity, from procuring subsistence, for themselves and their families; who are doomed to groan under the accumulated pressure of want and disease. The poor man, in this his hour of bitter anguish, receives from a MEDICAL CHARITY every kind attention, every necessary comfort, every Medical and Surgical assistance, which his unhappy situation may require: joy again visits his humble abode: his family and society are again benefited by his useful labours .- It cannot be questioned that the sufferings of the poor, when afflitted with sickness, if they were deprived of the relief of a MEDICAL CHARITY, would be considerably aggravated, and long protracted; and many a valuable member of the community, if neglected and unpitied by that community, would soon, in all probability, sink into an untimely grave! Hence humanity and policy most forcibly inculcate the obligation of liberally and strenuously supporting so truly benevolent an Institution.—Again, if we direct our attention to the advantages which result to the Patrons of a MEDICAL CHARITY, we shall discover in these secondary considerations a most powerful inducement to its protection .- One of the principal recommendations of such an Institution is its efficacy! in opposing the introduction, and interrupting the progress of Infectious Fevers. It promotes, perhaps, more than any other circumstance, the general salubrity of the surrounding district. Hence its supporters receive from it an invaluable benefit, in the preservation of their own health, and that of their families .-The salutary effect of MEDICAL CHARITIES, in preventing the communication of Contagion, is established, by many incontestible facts. In several populous towns, the gradual decline, and final disappearance of Malignant Fevers, with which they had been long infested, could, after careful investigation, be ascribed to this cause alone. This powerful influence of Medical Charities

Charities, in the suppression of contagious diseases, has been strikingly exemplified in this place. —Since the establishment of the INSTITUTION, for which we now solicit the PROTECTION of the PUBLIC, WHITEHAVEN has been, in a great measure, exempt from the ravages of a most destructive Nervous and Putrid Fever, which formerly raged with deptorable malignity.

The encouragement of these benevolent Institutions not only lightens the afflictions of the wretched, and is subservient to our best interests; but it is also conducive to the improvement of the finest feelings, and the noblest affections of the heart. This exalted Charity humanizes the soul; it awakens every generous and tender emotion of which our nature is susceptible; it unites man to man, by the firm bond of brotherly kindness, and gratitude; and it produces that habitual Benevolence and Sensibility, which renders its possessor at once beloved, and revered .- Great also, inexpressibly great, is its REWARD; for to it is associated the purest and most exquisite delight; that delight, which all the riches, and all the pleasures, and all the honours, and all the wisdom of this world cannot bestow; which is most powerfully felt in the hour of sorrow and siekness, and at the closing scene of life: and which is the nearest approximation to the happiness of that state, in which DEEDS of CHARITY will receive a glorious and EVERLASTING RECOM-PENCE.

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The Directors of this Charity most gratefully acknowledge the kindness of several Labies, for a considerable and repeated supply of OLD LINEN. Scrophulous Disease, and the effects of external injury, render this article very necessary, in the Surgical Department of the Dispensary.

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An ACCOUNT of	the PATIENTS	admitted, from	June 13, 180	08, to June	12, 1809.
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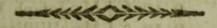
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Blank Letters of Recommendation may be had at the Dispensary.

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."

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OFFICERS for the Year 1809.

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Joshua Dixon, M. D.
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John Hamilton, Esq.

SURGEON.

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Mr. Isaac Gunson.

WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE EVENTS.

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Meaffes	C D	92 7	88	Nic.	9	3	2 1	1	3 83			451		133	0	0	451	
Scarlet Fever Hæmoerhages Fluor Albus	5 2	17 2	64 n	27	7 7	760	20 0 40 0		0 0	0 0 1		257	0 0	0 0 0	9 7 0	20	138	
Confumption Abortion After Pains Catarrh	0 0	0	0 0	0 0 0	6 0 0	1 1 1	0 0 0	1 0	000	0 0000	0 0 0	2 1 2	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 000	0 0 0	7 1 2	
Dyfentery	0	5	10	14	111110	(B)(0)	3 9	1000	dent	1		71	0	0	o	4	75	
NERVOUS DISEASES Head Ach Palfy Fainting Indigetion	0 0 0	0 000	0 0 0	1 0 0	1000	3 0	1 1 0 0 0 1	1 00	0	0 0 0	0 000	8 6 0	0 000	0 0 0	0 0 0	0	7	
Flatulency Convultions	16 .	0	0	4		0 2	0 0	5	3	0	0	55	0	0	0	3,	58	
Afilima	0	1	0	0	0		0 0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	16	
Hooping Cough Colic	4 0	7 1	0 0 0	0	0		3 2	2 1 0 0	3 4	0	0 0	16	8 0	3	6	1 0	18	
Cholera Morbus Diarrhœa Hyfteria Mania	0 11 0 0	0 25 0	1 7 0 0	0 1 0 0	0 1 0	2 2	1 4 1	1600	1 0 0 0	0 0000	1000	7 57 2	0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 30	8 60 2	
DISEASES of the HABIT Chronic Weaknels Dropfy Hydrocele	0		0	0 0	0 0	0	0 3	0 1	2 0	2 0	8	0 4	1	50	0 0	1 0	7	
Hydrocephalus	0	10	D	0	0 0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	
Scrophula Lucs Venerea	1 0	0 0	.1	0 0	0 0 0 I	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2 4	
Jaundice -	D t	0	0	100		10		0	0	ш	0	*	0	0	0	0	1	
LOCAL DISEASES.				0	0 1	0	0	0	9		0	1	0	0	2	0	.2	
Gravel - Rupture - Scorburic Eruptions	0	0 0 9 0	0 0 16 1	2	0 0 0	2 1 6 0	2 0 2 0 0	4 0		0 0		0	1 0 1	0	0	0 0 2	5 1 44 1	
	0 17	0	0/	0 3	0 0	0	0	0 0	A BES	0 0	100	35	0	9	0	1	6	
Fractures Spraina Burns	0	0000	0000	0 0	0 0	0 0 0	0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0	0 0	1	8 7	0 1	100			6 2 10 18 17	
										1	169	2 21	110	16	5 6	3/185	5	

4	Tabular Statement	· Cabo	Continued	Enven	Cales from	Tune no	1 -80 10	I.m.	10000
230	Labular Statement	or the	Continued	PEVER	Cales, // U//	THE PARTY OF	1703.10	Tune 12: 12	SOO:

1784 20												LOGIC	- 17									3.
1783 7 5 0 10 0 9 0 3 0 6 1 10 0 3 1 3 1 5 1 0 1 1 4 0 4 9 3 0 2 0 75 1 75 1 76 1 76 1 76 1 76 1 76 1 76 1	4000	Wade a F	cere	Between	e 67 5	15 8 10	100	15	15 6 201	20 6 20	130 8 40	01408	501	50 &	60:	160 8	701	700	& 8o		1	1
1784 20		0 1						66		CID											Dead.	Total.
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1787	1780	0	0	3	0		100	1	7	16 1	15 1	20	0	0	0	4		1	0			
1788 0	1757	0	0	0			100	0	2 5	60		5	0	3	100	2	0	1	0			22
1789 2 0 0 10 0 130 63 81 19 1 15 0 18 0 0 0 0 1 0 103 2 1003 1792 5 2 0 19 0 42 1 20 3 42 8 39 7 48 3 27 4 11 3 8 1 1 1 0 288 21 30 1791 5 3 0 5 0 6 0 3 5 0 70 9 1 13 1 15 1 5 1 2 1 1 0 0 0 0 17 2 15 1793 0 0 0 0 0 10 10 10 10 10 10 0 10 10 17 2 15 1793 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1788	8 0 5 5 5 1				The second second	HODE:	2		10 1	6 3	9	3	3		2	0	0	0	53		60
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