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Contributors

Munk, William, 1816-1898.
Marson, James F.
Royal College of Surgeons of England

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SMALL-POX AND VACCINATION HOSPITAL.

MEDICAL REPORT FOR 1866.

MALDEN AND WASHINGTON HOSPITALS

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Royal College of Surgeons



SMALL-POX AND VACCINATION HOSPITAL.

MEDICAL REPORT FOR 1866.



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TO THE GOVERNORS

OF THE

SMALL-POX AND VACCINATION HOSPITAL.

WE have in this, as we have had to do in each of our three preceding Reports, to request attention to the existence of an epidemic of small-pox which, judging from the facts supplied to us by the Small-Pox Hospital, has, in the length of time it has continued, and in the number of persons attacked, very far exceeded any similar visitation within the memory of the present generation.

It may be interesting, and it will certainly be useful, as affording a means of comparing the present with previous, but still recent, epidemics of small-pox, if we give in a tabular form the number of patients admitted into the hospital in each year since the opening of the present building in 1850. We have bracketed the periods of epidemics, so as to mark their date and duration, and the number of patients they have each of them brought to the hospital.

1851	682	}	. . . 1482
1852	800		
1853	143		
1854	714	}	. . . 2321
1855	972		
1856	635		
1857	212		
1858	368		

1859	.	.	.	.	.	1185	}	.	.	2060
1860	.	.	.	.	.	875				
1861	.	.	.	.	.	289				
1862	.	.	.	.	.	417				
1863	.	.	.	.	.	1537	}	.	.	5691
1864	.	.	.	.	.	836				
1865	.	.	.	.	.	1249				
1866	.	.	.	.	.	2069				

It would thus appear that in this period of sixteen years there have been four severe epidemics of small-pox in the metropolis; the first, that of 1851 and 1852, giving to the hospital 1482 admissions; the second, that of 1854, 1855, and 1856, giving 2321 admissions; the third, that of 1859 and 1860, with 2060 admissions; and the fourth, that of 1863, which still continues, giving, up to the 31st December, 1866, no less than 5691 admissions.

It may not be irrelevant, as showing the progressive increase of claim which each succeeding epidemic has made on the resources of the hospital, to add that the yearly average of admissions in the first of the above-mentioned epidemics was 741; in the second, 77 $\frac{1}{3}$; in the third, 1030; and in the fourth, 1422.

This last epidemic, judging from the admissions of patients into the Small-Pox Hospital, commenced about November, 1862, and reached a high degree of intensity by May and June, 1863; soon after which it began to decline, and continued doing so until the middle of 1864, at which time the monthly admissions into the hospital (although still very largely in excess of what is observed in non-epidemic periods) had fallen to less than a half of what they had been in the corresponding months of 1863. In the winter of 1864-5 the epidemic acquired increased violence, and the lowest monthly

admissions in 1865, namely, 75 in December, were but a trifle less than the highest monthly admissions in 1864, namely, 83 in January and in April. The epidemic acquired greatly-increased activity in 1866, and the admissions in that year exceeded by 532 those in 1863, the year of largest admissions in the whole history of the hospital prior to 1866.

The following tabular view of the monthly admissions of patients into the hospital will illustrate these statements, and convey a correct idea of the rise and progress of the epidemic. For the sake of contrasting the disease as occurring merely in the sporadic form, with it when epidemic, we begin with May, 1862, during which month but 9 patients sought admission into the hospital:—

1862. May 9	1864. June 55
June 15	July 55
July 18	August 69
August 22	September 52
September 34	October 81
October 35	November 70
November 70	December 73
December 137	1865. January 115
1863. January 137	February 111
February 130	March 128
March 141	April 140
April 136	May 135
May 145	June 93
June 149	July 111
July 140	August 95
August 129	September 79
September 109	October 83
October 118	November 84
November 101	December 75
December 102	1866. January 131
1864. January 83	February 119
February 72	March 214
March 73	April 195
April 83	May 205
May 70	June 196

1866. July 177	1866. October 160
August 185	November 164
September 141	December 182

2069 patients were admitted into the Small-Pox Hospital in the year 1866, and of these 32 were suffering from various forms of disease not small-pox. Of the 2037 cases of small-pox, 425 occurred in unvaccinated persons, and 1605 in persons who had been vaccinated. There were 3 cases occurring after a previous attack of natural small-pox, 2 cases after inoculation, and 2 cases after vaccination and small-pox.

In the course of the year there were 272 deaths, or a general mortality on the whole admissions of 13 per cent. Of the 425 unvaccinated cases, 152 died, being a mortality for this class of 35·7 per cent. ; whilst of the 1605 vaccinated cases, but 118 died, or 7·3 per cent., or deducting, as we may fairly do, 10 deaths caused by antecedent or superadded disease, 6·7 per cent. only. One of the 3 cases which occurred after natural small-pox died, as did also one of the 2 cases occurring after vaccination and small-pox.

Comparing these results with those of the three previous years, we find that the disease has become less severe, and decidedly less fatal, than it was in 1863, the first year of the epidemic. The general mortality has decreased from 17 per cent. in 1863 to 13 per cent. in 1866. This, with other facts of considerable interest, will be best shown in the following table. The average death-rate at the hospital, as deduced from a series of sixteen years ending Dec. 31, 1851, was, we may add, 21·38 per cent. of the whole admissions. The death-rate in the unvaccinated, for the same period, was 35 per cent., and in the vaccinated 6·76 per cent., after deducting the deaths from antecedent, coincident, or super-added diseases:—

	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.
General Mortality	17·0	12·9	13·0	13·0
Mortality in the Unvaccinated . . .	48·0	36·0	38·0	35·7
After deducting superadded Disease .	47·0	35·0	..	..
Mortality in the Vaccinated	12·0	8·7	7·4	7·3
After deducting superadded Disease .	9·9	7·9	7·2	6·7

The ratio of vaccinated cases to the whole admissions of small-pox patients, as calculated from a series of sixteen years, ending with 1851, was 53 per cent., a proportion which has gone on progressively increasing. In the epidemic of 1851-1852 it was 66·7 per cent.; in that of 1854, 1855, and 1856, 71·2 per cent.; in 1859 and 1860, 78 per cent.; and for the four years of the present epidemic it has been 81·1 per cent. This increase of vaccinated cases will account in a great measure for the decrease of *general* mortality since 1851.

The deaths, 11 in number, from antecedent, coincident, or superadded diseases, may be thus arranged—

In the Unvaccinated—

From Scarlatina 1

In the Vaccinated—

From Pyæmia 2

Erysipelas 1

Gangrene 1

Hospital Fever 1

Severe Pelvic Inflammation, accompanying Small Pox . . . 1

Diarrhœa 1

Typhus and Small Pox 1

Disease of the Heart 1

Disease of the Chest 1

As respects the vaccination department of the hospital, we have to report that in the course of the year 1866, 388 persons have been vaccinated, and 580 charges of vaccine lymph have been supplied to members of the medical profession.

WILLIAM MUNK, M.D., F.S.A., F.R.C.P.,
Physician to the Hospital.

J. F. MARSON, F.R.C.S.,
Surgeon to the Hospital.

February 1, 1867.



